PICK OF THE LITTER
by: YURIKO SUDA
4
TOKYOPOP

Vol. 4
by
Yuriko Suda

TOKYOPOP®

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PICK OF THE LITTER

Yuriko Suda

Volume 4

Pick of the Litter Volume 4
Created by Yuriko Suda

Translation - Alethea & Athena Nibley
English Adaptation - Kristin Bailey Murphy
Retouch and Lettering - Star Print Brokers
Production Artist - Keila N. Ramos
Graphic Designer - Colin Graham

Editor - Katherine Schilling
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Production Supervisor - Lucas Rivera
Production Manager - Elisabeth Brizzi
Managing Editor - Vy Nguyen
Creative Director - Anne Marie Horne
Editor-in-Chief - Rob Tokar
Publisher - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
C.E.O. and Chief Creative Officer - Stu Levy

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TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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Shii
Fourth son

He's easygoing and aloof, but he's also quite the little schemer.

Mikasa
Third son

A loafer and Hiyokoya's biggest problem child. He's quite popular in the red-light district.

Futaba
Second son

A member of the mysterious Usa-mimi Clan with the ability to connect Yamato and Japan.

Konohana
Cousin

A capable girl who's a member of the Usa-mimi Clan. She doesn't have any magic, though.

Mio
Head Clerk

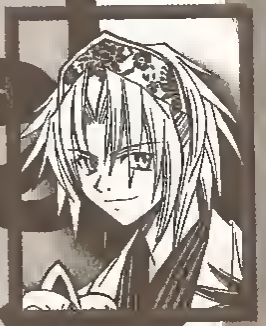
Riku's father's cousin. He supports Hiyokoya on the management side of things.

Satsuki
Fifth son

He's a few months older than Riku! And he's not so great at speaking Japanese.

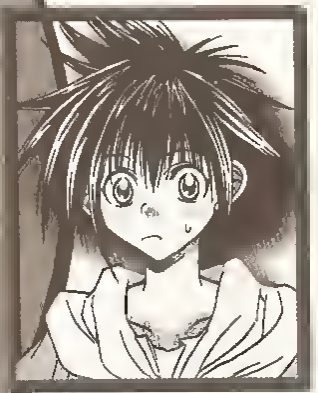
Summary & Character Introductions

Riku Fukagawa is a middle school student whose family is missing, and who has no memories from before the age of ten. He was living a peaceful life, until one day some guys claiming to be his long-lost brothers from Yamato (a whole other world!) showed up. Shockingly, Riku is also originally from this world, and was only accidentally sent to Japan by a holy-spirit stone when he was very young. As Riku lives two different lives in Japan and Yamato, he rebuilds the bond with his family. But one fateful day, Satsuki is swallowed up by a wicked shadow produced by a sword they picked up at a curio shop...



Ichiya
Eldest Son

The young master of Hiyokoya. He is the oldest sibling and dotes on Riku.

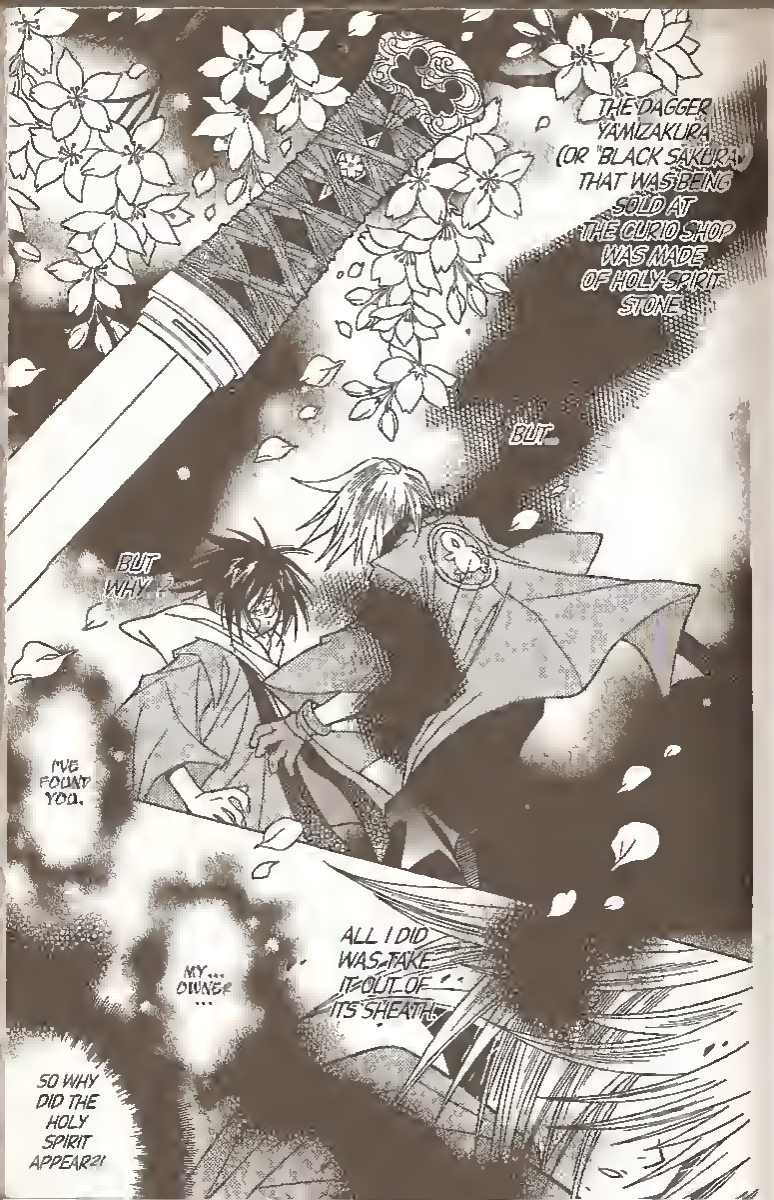


Riku
Sixth Son

In Japan, his name is Riku Fukagawa. He is a middle school student getting ready to take his high school entrance exams. He has a mysterious power that links him to holy spirits.

Saika

A holy spirit with enormous power. He is normally sealed inside a stone that's shaped like a beckoning cat. He syncs up with Riku to display various powers, but his true power has yet to be discovered.


THE DAGGER YAMIZAKURA (OR "BLACK SAKURA" THAT WAS BEING SOLD AT THE CURIO SHOP WAS MADE OF HOLY SPIRIT STONE.
BUT...
BUT WHY...?
I'VE FOUND YOU.
ALL I DID WAS TAKE IT OUT OF ITS SHEATH...
MY... OWNER...
SO WHY DID THE HOLY SPIRIT APPEAR?!

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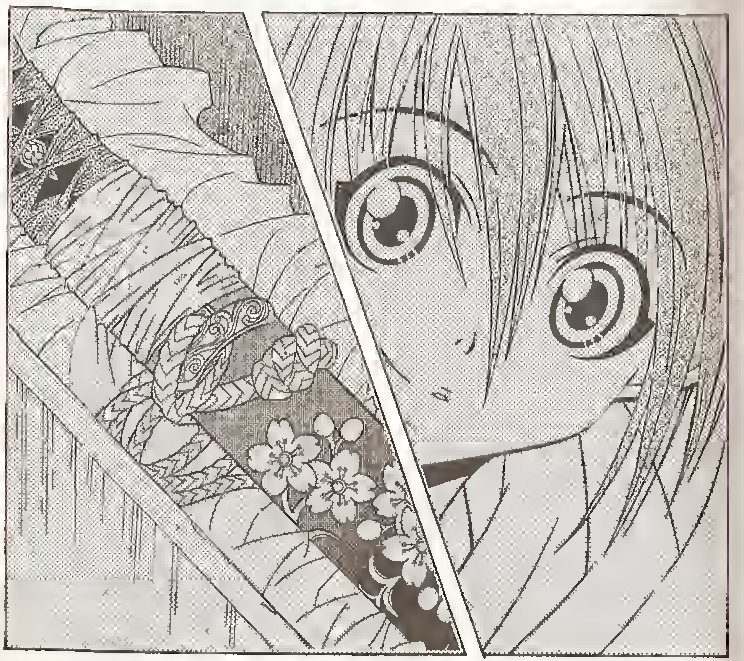
Chapter 21

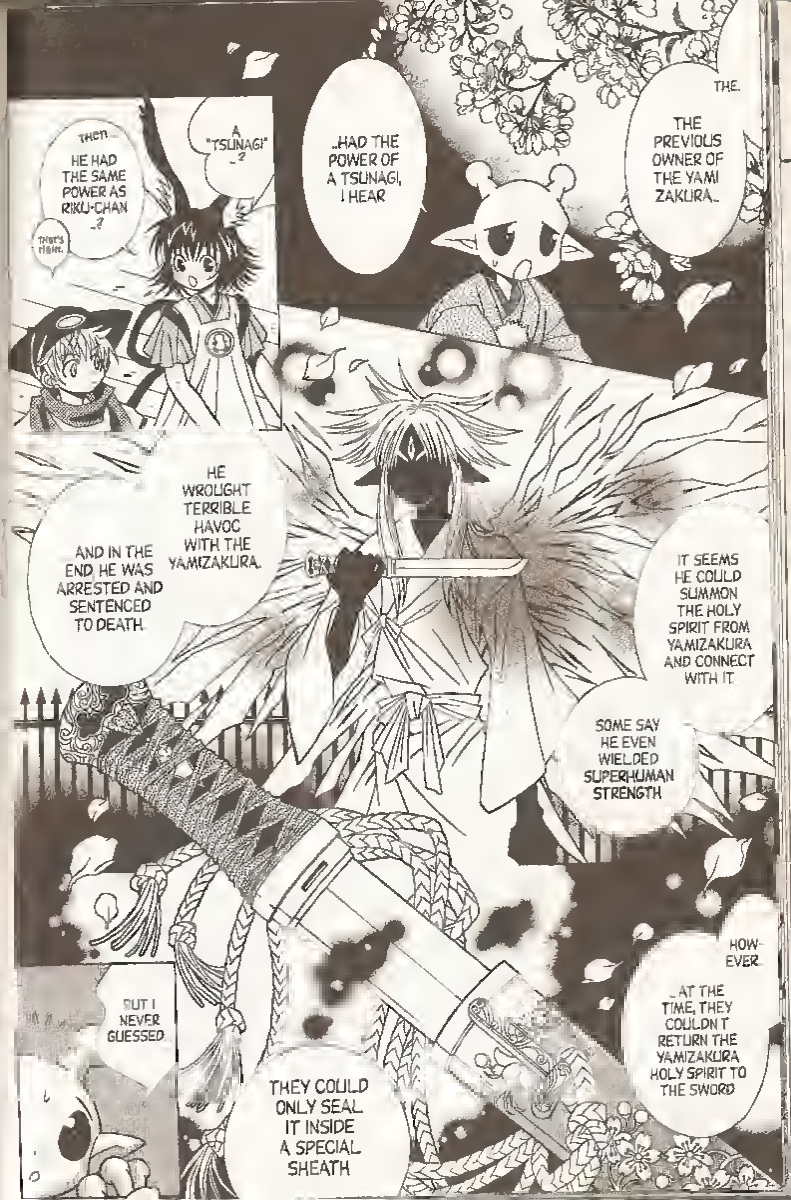
Usa-mimi Clan Library



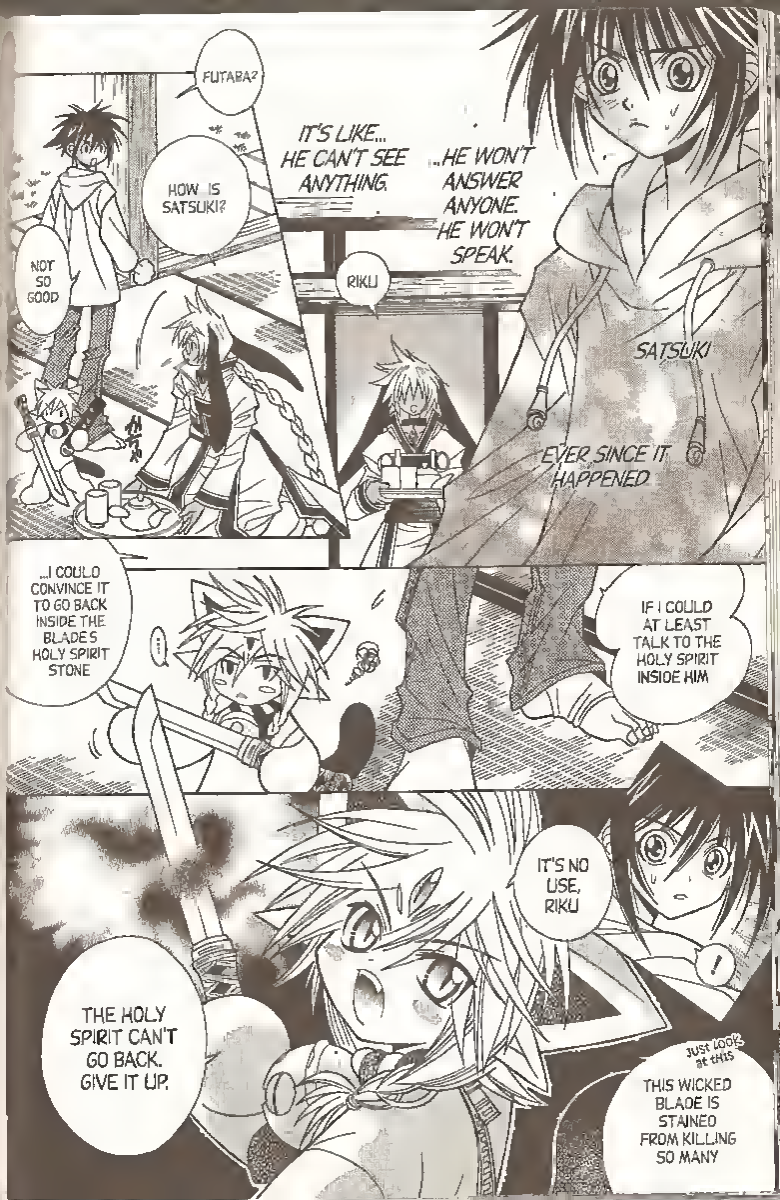
I WAS SCARED OF THE DEMON BLADE...SO I JUST--!!
Hiyokoya Store
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DECEIVE YOU!
GEK-KOUDOU-SAN
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SWORD!
A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY HAS BEEN HARMED BY YAMIZAKURA
About the dagger
WE DIDN'T CALL YOU HERE TO LISTEN TO YOUR EXCUSES ☆
ENOUGH OF YOUR WHINING!!
First of all—
GIVE BACK THE MONEY WE PAID YOU FOR THE SWORD!!
GIVE IT BACK!
SHII
MIO
You two.
GIVE IT BACK NOW!

キョロ
キョロ
CURIOS
EKKOUDOU
GEKKOUDOU-SAN WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ヒョオォオオォ…
WOW!
THAT'S A BIG BACK PACK ♡
ヒヴッ
..YOU'RE SKIPPING TOWN?
Now
AFTER YOU FINALLY SOLD OFF THAT BURDENSOME DEMON BLADE
YIPE!
Hi-
HIYOKOYA-SAN?!

SATSUKI...
...THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD ENTER A NORMAL HUMAN...
SATSUKI! IT'S ME! RIKU!
IF YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE, ANSWER ME!
.....


THEN...
HE HAD THE SAME POWER AS RIKU-CHAN -?
THAT'S RIGHT.
A "TSUNAGI" -?
..HAD THE POWER OF A TSUNAGI, I HEAR
THE.
THE PREVIOUS OWNER OF THE YAMI ZAKURA..
HE WROUGHT TERRIBLE HAVOC WITH THE YAMIZAKURA.
AND IN THE END, HE WAS ARRESTED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH.
IT SEEMS HE COULD SUMMON THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM YAMIZAKURA AND CONNECT WITH IT.
SOME SAY HE EVEN WIELDED SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH.
HOW-EVER
..AT THE TIME, THEY COULDN'T RETURN THE YAMIZAKURA HOLY SPIRIT TO THE SWORD
BUT I NEVER GUESSED.
THEY COULD ONLY SEAL IT INSIDE A SPECIAL SHEATH.

SA-TSUKI ?!!
EH?
IT SURE DOES
HOLY SPIRITS ARE EXTREMELY HOLY CLEAN BEINGS
DOES THAT REALLY HAPPEN?
CLUNK
OH NO!
THEN HOW..?
IT'S DANGEROUS STAGGERING AROUND LIKE THAT!
ARE YOU OKAY?
LOOK HOW SCRATCHED UP YOU ARE.


FUTABA?
HOW IS SATSUKI?
NOT SO GOOD
IT'S LIKE... HE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
..HE WON'T ANSWER ANYONE. HE WON'T SPEAK.
RIKU
SATSUKI
EVER SINCE IT HAPPENED
..I COULD CONVINCE IT TO GO BACK INSIDE THE BLADE'S HOLY SPIRIT STONE
IF I COULD AT LEAST TALK TO THE HOLY SPIRIT INSIDE HIM
THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN'T GO BACK. GIVE IT UP.
IT'S NO USE, RIKU
JUST LOOK AT THIS
THIS WICKED BLADE IS STAINED FROM KILLING SO MANY

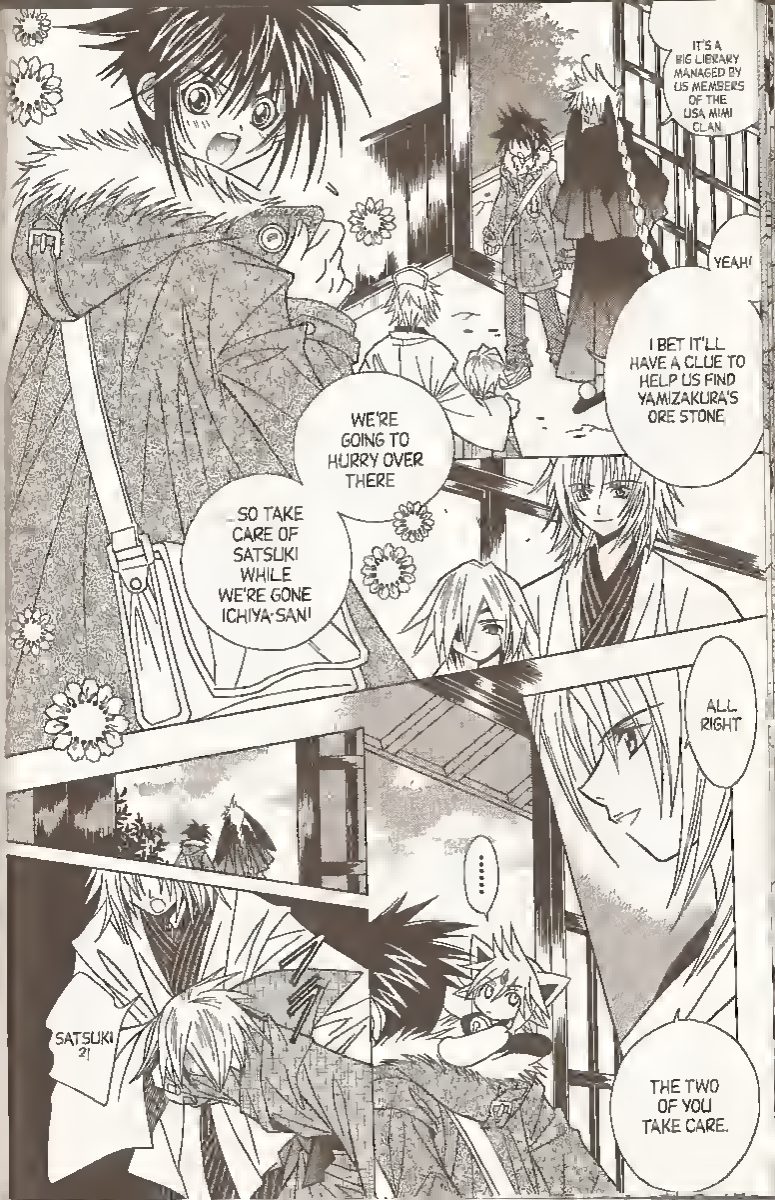
ALL BECAUSE I HAD TO BE SO STUBBORN AND STUPID
SATSUKI...
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!!
THE DAGGER IS WICKED AND STAINED.
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN NEVER GO BACK.
RIKU
HEY FUTABA...
WHAT'S...
...GOING TO HAPPEN TO SATSUKI?
IT'S KINDA LIKE...
...WE'VE TRADED PLACES.
THAT'S WHY..
...SAY I'M SLOW, AND THAT I LOOK LIKE I'M GONNA GET INTO TROUBLE.
YOU ALWAYS...
THAT'S WHY...
...!
RIKU?
.....!

USA-MIMI CLAN LIBRARY ?!
WELL, THEN! LEAVE IT TO ME, RIKU!!
YAMIZA-KURA'S ORE STONE..?
I GET IT!
IF WE LOOK FOR THE PLACE WHERE THE ORE STONE IS..!
SO? WHERE IS IT?
DO YOU KNOW, SATSUKI?
HOPE!
PAT!

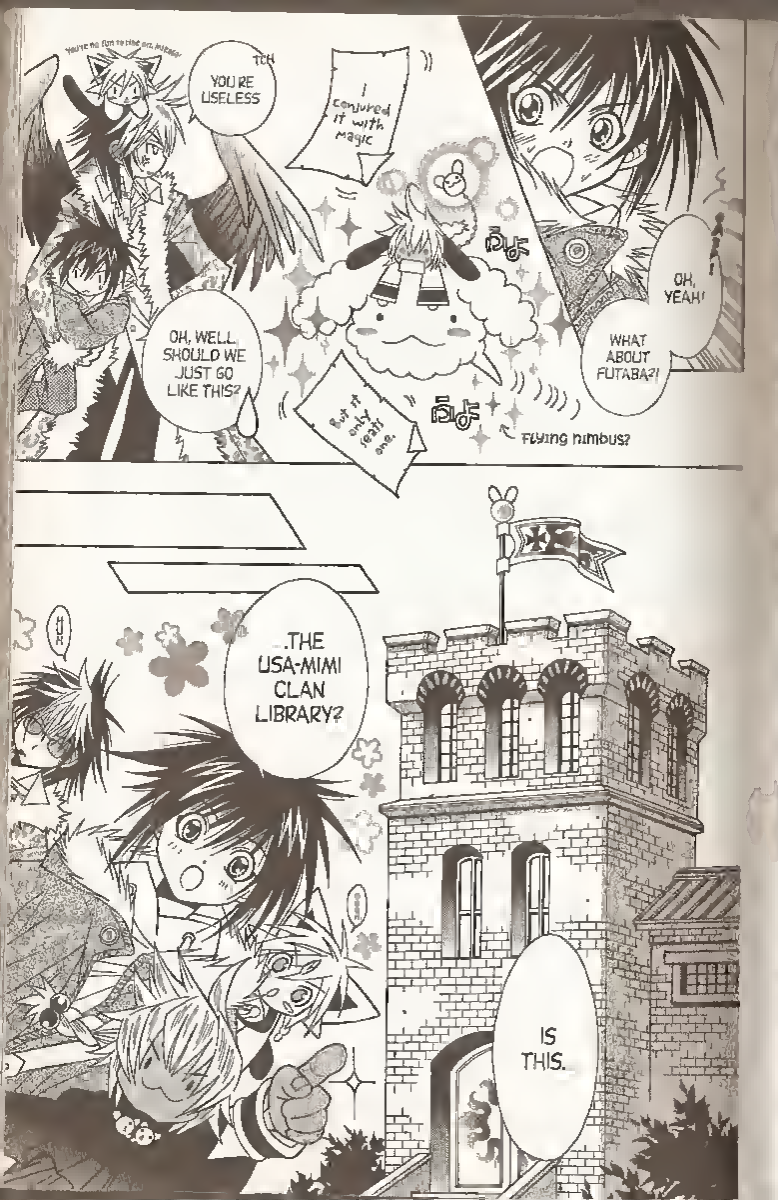
DAAAAH!
I'M SURE HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
SHIMMERING SPARKLING
RIKU!
HUH?
HOW CAN I HELP SATSUKI..?
WHAT CAN I DO?!!
FUTA--
?!
GULP!
LET'S NOT GIVE UP ON HIM!
IN TERMS OF HELPING...
..THERE MAY BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO
AH B SHORRY
sniffle
AH DUST..
DON'T CRY FUTA-RA!
TWITCHED EARS
...YOU JUST HAVE TO RETURN THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE ORE STONE IT CAME FROM
IF THE BLADE ITSELF IS NO GOOD

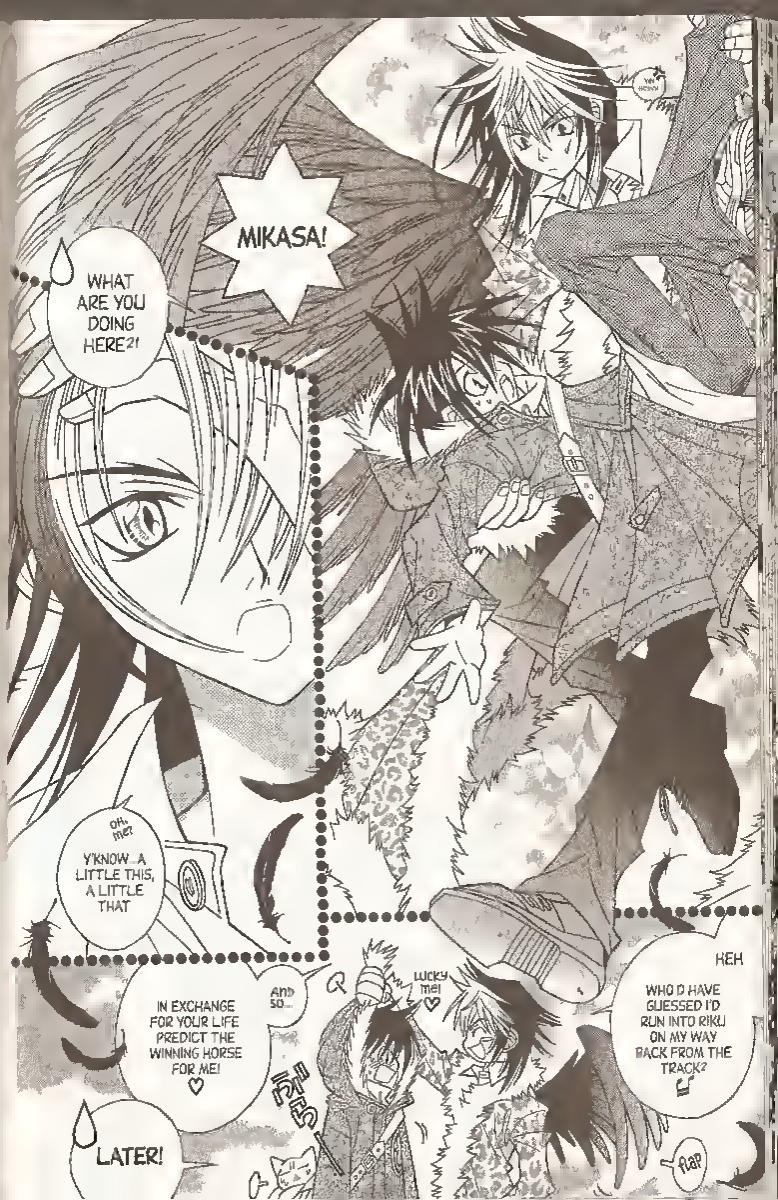
SATSUKI!!!
I'M TELLING THIS ONLY TO YOU, NII-CHAN
WHEN A HOLY SPIRIT ENTERS A NORMAL HUMAN, THE VESSEL AND THE SPIRIT ARE OUT OF BALANCE... AND THE HUMAN ALWAYS LOSES.

ARE YOU SAYING...
HE'LL DIE?
JUST DON'T...
...TELL RIKU
THEN, YOU MEAN SATSUKI WILL...
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT SLOWLY EATING AWAY AT HIM FROM THE INSIDE...
...HE WON'T LAST LONG.


IT'S A BIG LIBRARY MANAGED BY US MEMBERS OF THE USA MIMI CLAN.
YEAH!
I BET IT'LL HAVE A CLUE TO HELP US FIND YAMIZAKURA'S ORE STONE.
WE'RE GOING TO HURRY OVER THERE
...SO TAKE CARE OF SATSUKI WHILE WE'RE GONE ICHIYA-SAN!
ALL RIGHT
.....
SATSUKI
21
THE TWO OF YOU TAKE CARE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOOOO!
WE HAVEN'T HELPED SATSUKI YET!
I don't wanna hurt
GOOF BALLS.
DON'T SPRING THAT ON ME!
THIS IS bad!
I'VE NEVER STEERED A HORSE BEFO--
TWIRL
DA AH!
IT'S JUST A LITTLE FARTHER NORTH. ♡
FLAP
Hey! FUTABA!
IS THE USA-MIMI CLAN LIBRARY FAR?
BY THE WAY, RIKU...
THIS IS ONLY MY SECOND TIME RIDING A "HORSE"
BLINKING
BLINKING
I'M ABOUT TO DE-TRANS-FORM.
WOULD YOU MIND TAKING OVER?
UWAA?!
POOF
EH?


You're no fun to tease, Mikasa!
TCH
YOU'RE USELESS
I conjured it with magic
OH, YEAH!
WHAT ABOUT FUTABA?!
OH, WELL. SHOULD WE JUST GO LIKE THIS?
But it only seats one.
Flying nimbus?
HM
...THE USA-MIMI CLAN LIBRARY?
IS THIS.


MIKASA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
Oh, me?
Y'KNOW...A LITTLE THIS, A LITTLE THAT
And so...
IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIFE PREDICT THE WINNING HORSE FOR ME!
LATER!
Lucky me!
HEH
WHO'D HAVE GUESSED I'D RUN INTO RIKU ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE TRACK?
flap

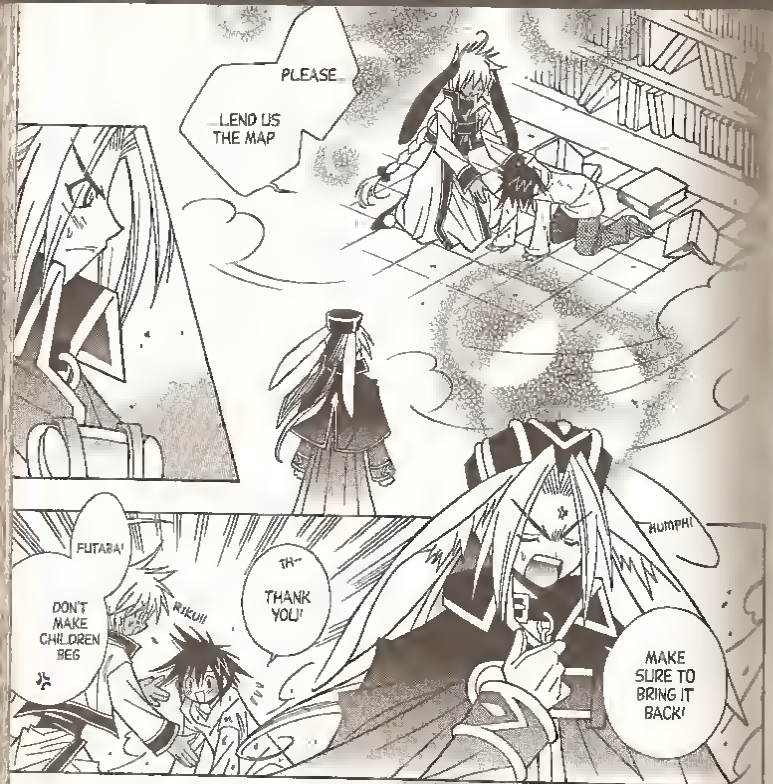
DON'T SAY THAT!
Aren't there any dirty books here?
HEY!
SATSUKI'S BEEN POSSESSED BY A HOLY SPIRIT HUH?
SO...
WHEW.
THAT KID SEEMS LIKE HE WOULDN'T DIE EVEN IF YOU KILLED 'IM.
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING?!!
IT'S MY FAULT...
...THAT SATSUKI'S NOW...
HEY, NOW ♡ DON'T GET SO DOWN.

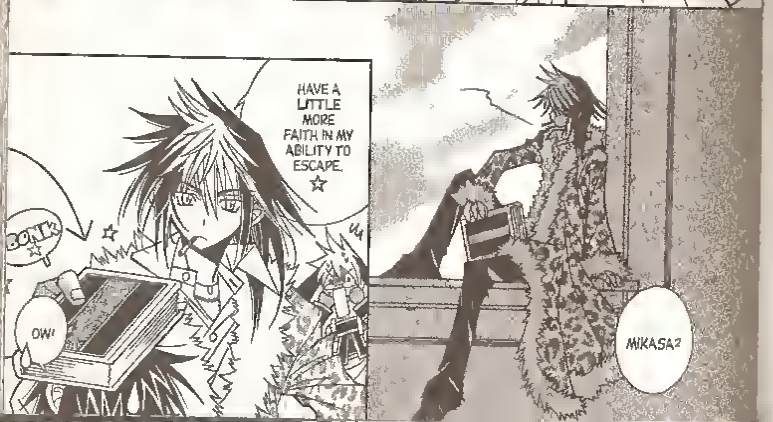
THE HOLY-SPIRIT ORE STONE WORLD MAP!!
Reading Room
HERE IT IS!
Is my stone in there, too?
WITH THIS...
...I'M SURE WE CAN FIND WHERE THE ORE STONE IS!
YOU HAVE LOTS OF USEFUL SKILLS
And you can use magic.
I have a Librarian's License, too.
...YOU'RE AMAZING, FUTABA.
TO FIND IT IN THIS GIGANTIC COLLECTION OF BOOKS...

PUFF
PUFF
NO SMOKING IN THE LIBRARY!
AND YOU!
VERY WELL, THEN. JUST BE CARRYING A HANDKERCHIEF AND THE BROOM!
YOU ON THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OR SOMETHING?
WELL? LITTLE BUNNY?
AND NO RUNNING IN THE HALLS.
...RIGHT?
THAT MAP IS VERY VALUABLE. YOU'RE FORBIDDEN FROM TAKING IT!!
UH
YOU CAN'T.
EH?!
WHAAAAAAT?!
ACK!
PLEASE OBEY THE RULES!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
HOW RUDE!
OH!
UM!
IF WE CAN JUST BORROW THIS MAP, WE'LL BE OUT OF YOUR HAIR IN A MINUTE!

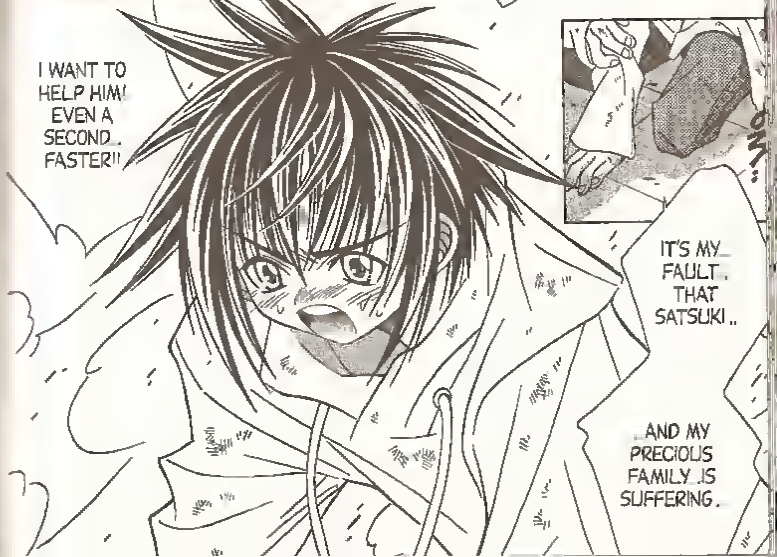
THIS PLACE IS ONLY FOR THOSE OF OUR CLAN. IT'S OFF-LIMITS TO YOU HUMANS.
I'M HIIRAGI, HEAD LIBRARIAN HERE!
...?
It's been a long time, Hiiragi! Glad to see you're doing well!
FUTABA?!
WHOA!
WHO'S THAT?
scram me!
He's mad!
!
YOU KNOW HIM, FUTABA?
We were classmates in school.
WOW!
WHAT?!
HMMM
I request permission for them to use the library.
What a crazy family!
These two are family

I'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN!
MIKASA!! NO!!
WHY, YOU THIEVING CROW!
TAKE THIS! LIGHTNING--
MIKASA
HIIRAGI-SAN!
STOP--!
BE-SIDES...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS... TO SATSUKI WHILE WE'RE DOING THAT...
THAT'LL TAKE TOO MUCH TIME...
ARE YOU TELLING US WE HAVE TO COPY DOWN THE WHOLE THING?!
AT TIMES LIKES THESE...
RIKU...
LEAVE THIS TO YOUR BIG BROTHER.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE...?
POOF!
You Grab your prey and run!!
He really DID it!
WAAAH!
LEAVE THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY TO ME!


PLEASE...
...LEND US THE MAP
FUTABA!
DON'T MAKE CHILDREN BEG
RIKU!!
TH-
THANK YOU!
HUMPH!
MAKE SURE TO BRING IT BACK!


HAVE A LITTLE MORE FAITH IN MY ABILITY TO ESCAPE. ☆
BONK
OW!
MIKASA?

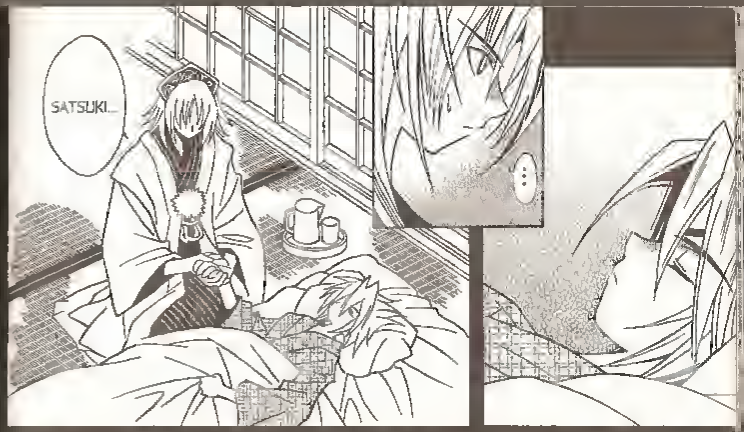
FOOL! HOW COULD YOU BE SO STUPID..?
RIKU!!
PLE ASE..
HIIRAGI-SAN..


I WANT TO HELP HIM! EVEN A SECOND.. FASTER!!
OH..
IT'S MY... FAULT.. THAT SATSUKI..
...AND MY PRECIOUS FAMILY...IS SUFFERING.

A CHILD IS CRYING...
waaah!
waaah!
WHAT...?
A GIRL?
SOB
SOB
?
WHO'S SHE? JUST SOME BRAT...
I PANICKED FOR A SECOND
I THOUGHT... MAYBE THE OLD RIKU WAS CRYING.

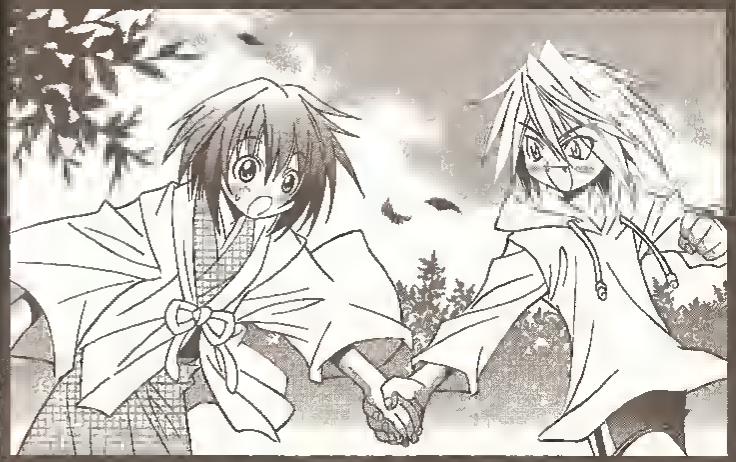
YOU SHOULDN'T BRAG ABOUT COMMITTING A CRIME!!
.....
IT WAS JUST AN ATTEMPT!
WHOA
GYAAAAHH!
..KA..
MI..
SAAA AAAAA AAAA!!
He gets lightning after all!!
FUTABA
MIKASA
THANK YOU.
JUST YOU WAIT, SATSUKI..!!
Am I carrying Riku?
Now! Let's go home ♡
End of Chapter 21

THE OLD RIKU CRIED ALL THE TIME
AND AN OUTDOOR-LOVING, BAD-MANNERED, STUPID KID LIKE ME...
MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS SHY, A "GOOD BOY," AND HE WAS EASILY MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL...
Snake
Cry-baby!
WAAAH
EH, RATHER, I MADE HIM CRY ALL THE TIME
WHY'D YOU HIT MEEEE, SATSUKI-CHAN?
WH-?
...TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM BUT TO TEASE HIM.
...I DIDN'T KNOW HOW...
BUT STILL...
...AFTER THAT, TSUNAGI POWERS MANIFESTED IN RIKU



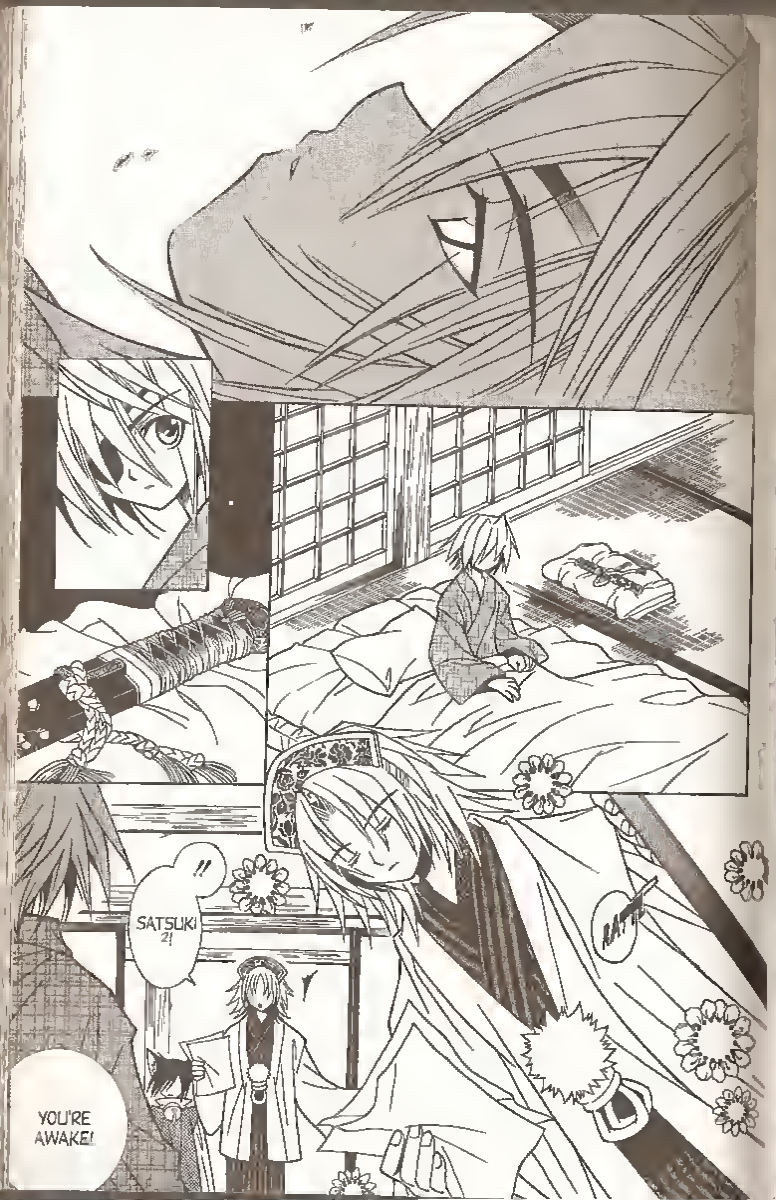
Chapter 22

Yamizakura Awakens



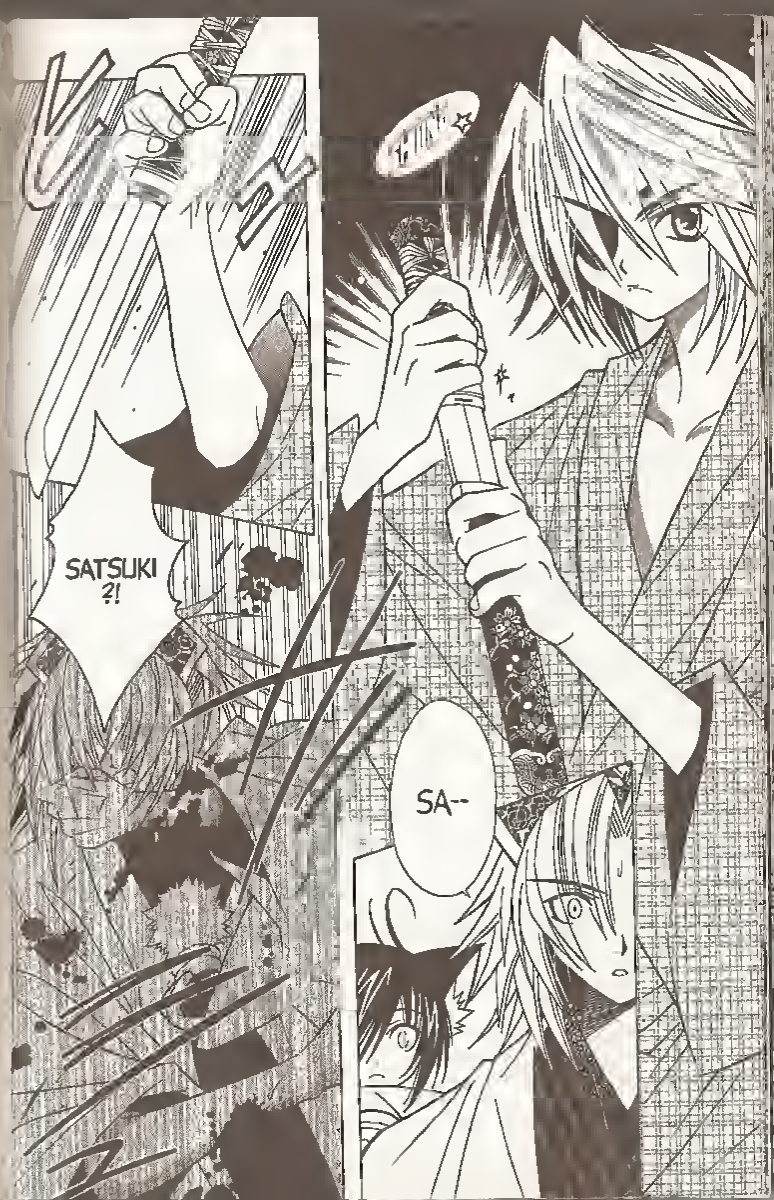
RIKU HAS...
IT'S TERRIBLE!
AH! SATSUKI!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, SHII?
...I THOUGHT..
...I COULD ALWAYS..
BECAUSE WE'RE FAMILY.
BECAUSE... WE'RE... BROTHERS
EH...?
HOLD HIS HAND
COULD ALWAYS TAKE HOLD OF IT AGAIN
BUT I..
..COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR RIKU.

WHAT AM I SPOSED TO DO?
..CARING FOR THE SICK ISN'T MY THING.
I CAN'T MESS WITH HIM ANYMORE LIKE THIS
SATSUKI-CHAN...
BASEBALL WITH FRIENDS
AND HE COULD HARDLY LEAVE THE HOUSE ANYMORE
BECAUSE OF THAT, HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION BECAME UNSTABLE.
KOFF KOFF
MAYBE NEXT TIME.
FLOWERS ARE FOR WUSSES!
WANNA COME SEE IT?
RIKU
A FLOWER BLOOMED ON THE POTTED PLANT I'VE BEEN KEEPING.
GUESS WHAT?
?
I WANTED TO BE... FRIENDS, BUT...
SOMEHOW, I COULDN'T DO IT VERY WELL...


YOU'RE AWAKE!
SATSUKI ?!
...!!
KA-TA

Hey you.
AND THEN NEXT TIME
I'M SURE RIKU IS ALIVE
I'LL FIND HIM NO MATTER WHAT
This place...
...is boring!
YOU...?
?
C'mon!♡ let's play!
LET'S PLAY
SATSUKI-CHAN
EH...?
OKAY

WE'RE BACK!
YO KO Y
That's because you're always stealing from the shop
This is nice, wearing through the front door like this
WE FOUND AT THE LIBRARY!!
We're back
SILENCE
HUH?
SATSU-KI!
That's strange
GUYS?
MAYBE THEY'RE IN THE STORE.
WHY, YOU..!


SATSUKI ?!
SA--

STOP IT!!
WHAT WAS THAT?
?!
LOOK, YOU! IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE RECKLESS DO IT AFTER YOU'VE PRODUCED AN HEIR!!
ACK! THE screen door!
ICHIYA-SAN!
HE KICKED ME
WHAT IF YOU DIED?!
TO THINK MY YOUNGER BROTHER IS STRONGER THAN ME...
SATSUKI...?

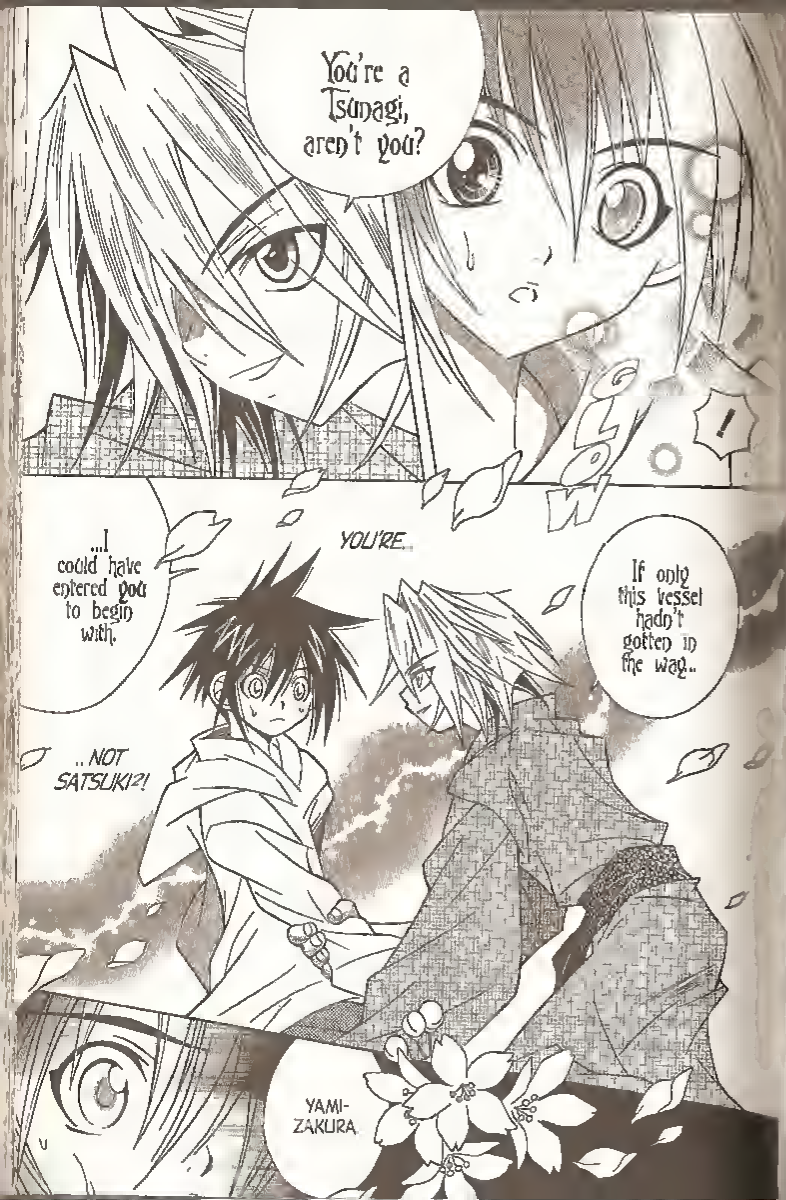
AND LOOK WHO'S USING THAT SAME HEAD OF HIYOKOYA AS A SHIELD.
TURNING A BLADE ON THE HEAD OF HIYOKOYA AND YOUR OLDEST BROTHER!!
MIO
SATSUKI...!
HM?
DON'T GO COOKING FOR ICHIYA.
THAT'S ICHIYA SAN'S VOICE.
IS HE OVER THERE?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
SATSUKI

ドン
OOOH!
MIKAGE!
SATSUKI!
What's all the trouble?!
?
Note to self
IT MIGHT BE BETTER NOT TO GO AGAINST FUTABA
Summon beast
ぼしゅん
What is that thing?!
Waaaah!
Kyaaah!
HHNGH...
D'OH!
DID I GO TOO FAR?!

STAY AWAY, RIKU!
?!
EH?
A LITTLE TOO FINE IF YOU ASK ME.
MIKASA!
TAKE CARE OF RIKU!
Violence in the home?
What's this?
YOU LOOK FINE, SATSUKI ☆
?!
SATS
!!!
KEEP

FLASH!
YAMIZAKURA'S STONE HAS BEEN INPUT INTO MY BRAIN!!
OH Great Holy Spirit Saika-sama!
ACTIVATING... "SEE-ALL ABILITY"!!
Saika, are you sure that's right...?
IS THIS IT?
NOPE NOT IT, AH, THIS ONE?
NO NO
もた？
TOO SLOW!
もた
!
SATSU-KI!!
!
NGH...?

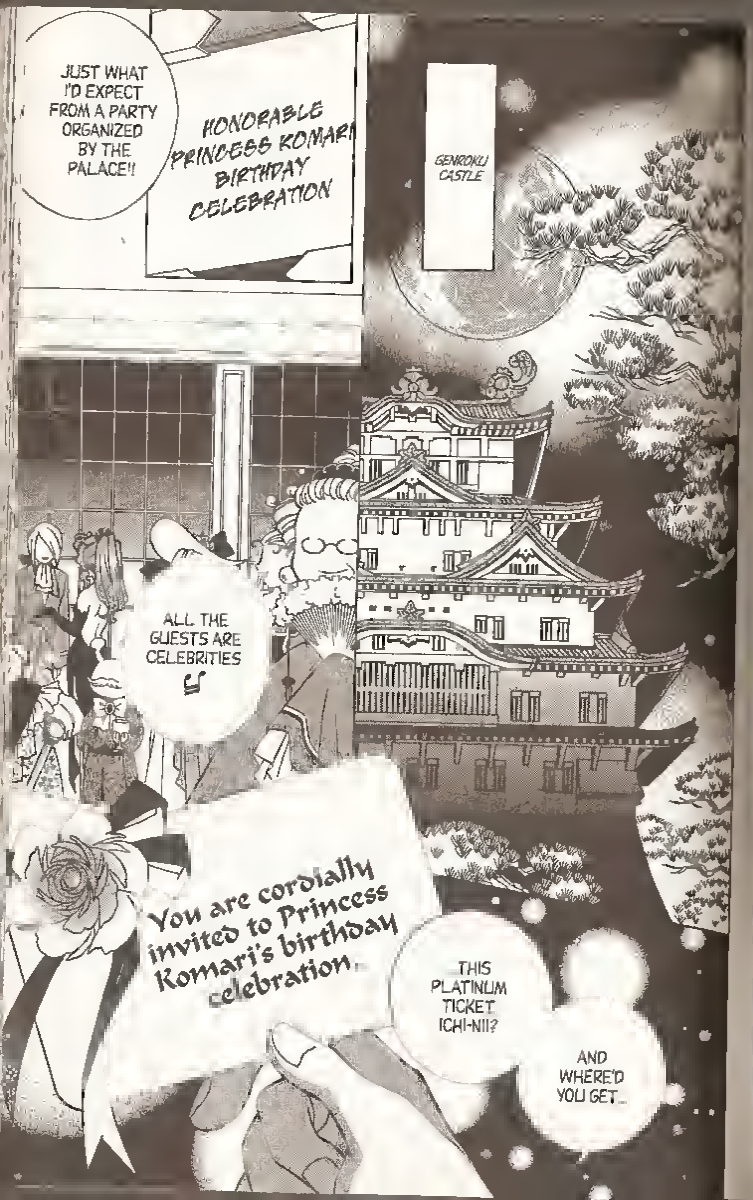
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
WOW!
THERE ARE TONS OF ORE STONES!
IS THE HOLY-SPIRIT ORE STONE WORLD MAP THIS...
TOO BAD THERE'S NO INDEX
LET'S LOOK FOR YAMIZAKURA'S ORE STONE!
ぱぁ
しゃきーん
LEAVE THAT TO ME!!
UM, WELL...
WHERE DO WE START LOOKING?
In that case
LOOKING FOR THINGS IN MY TERRITORY OF HIYOKOYA...
...IS A JOB FOR THE GREAT HOLY SPIRIT SAIKA-SAMA!!
Venerable Beckoning Cat


You're a Tsunagi, aren't you?
!
YOU'RE...
...I could have entered you to begin with.
If only this vessel hadn't gotten in the way..
..NOT SATSUKI?!
YAMI-ZAKURA

SATSUKI?
KA-TANA...
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE AWAKE!
HE CAN TALK AGAIN?!
KATANA...
WHERE... IS IT?
WHY WERE YOU SWINGING THE KATANA AROUND EARLIER. ?
OH...
OH YEAH! SATSUKI!
FORTUNATELY, ICHIYA-SAN...
...WASN'T HURT VERY MUCH.
WAH?!
YOU...
IF YOU MEAN THE YAMI-ZAKURA
IT'S DANGEROUS SO I WENT AND HID IT
MIKASA.

That's right.
Very soon now...
It won't be long now.
Once I destroy this vessel, I'll be able to leave it.

Just earlier, I was beaten by a mere summon monster.
The handling on this vessel is terrible, I can't bear it! ☆
ARE YOU THE HOLY SPIRIT OF YAMIZAKURA ?!
GET OUT OF HIM!
I'm Suzuno
DON'T TREAT SATSUKI'S BODY LIKE THAT! HE'S NOT A RAG DOLL!
ゆさ・ゆさ
I can't get out on my own.
I THOUGHT HE LOOKED FINE...
SO YOU WERE ATTACKING US BECAUSE YOU WERE POSSESSED?!
GRRR!
THAT REALLY GRINDS MY GEARS!
AUGH!
Now, now.
Don't be in such a hurry.


JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM A PARTY ORGANIZED BY THE PALACE!!
HONORABLE PRINCESS KOMARI BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
GENROKU CASTLE
ALL THE GUESTS ARE CELEBRITIES
You are cordially invited to Princess Komari's birthday celebration.
THIS PLATINUM TICKET ICHI-NII?
AND WHERE'D YOU GET...

DE..
..STROY?
REALLY ?!
WHERE?!
WE FOUND OUT WHERE YAMIZAKURA'S ORE STONE IS!!
TRIUMPH
The great Saika found it. ♡
RIKU!
IT'S PRETTY CLOSE
IN THE GENROKU CASTLE GARDEN!!
GENROKU CASTLE?!

SHH.
RIKU.
WILL ALL THE PARTY GUESTS PLEASE GATHER IN THE GRAND HALL...
WILL YOU TWO BE ALL RIGHT ON YOUR OWN?
HEHE!
DON'T WORRY, ICHIYA-SAN.
IT'LL BE EASIER TO MOVE WITH JUST TWO OF US
PLUS, THEY'LL HAVE ME!
HH!
COME ON, RIKU!
YOU HEARD HIM ☆
THROUGH MY CONNEC TIONS
LET'S GO
Chapter 4
Sakura Blooming Beneath the Water
SHUH. ISH!

HUFF...
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?!
Indeed.
SATSUKI?!
WE HAVE TO HURRY!
WE HAVE TO HURRY!
What a pain! If only this vessel would hurry up and keel over already!
...OR SATSUKI WILL FALL TO YAMIZAKURA!!
YAMI ZAKURA
RIKU!
WHAT DO YOU TAKE A PERSON'S LIFE FOR?
YOU LITTLE...
BE CAREFUL.
IF YOU NEED MY HELP, I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY
NO MATTER WHAT...
RIKU...
...I'LL SAVE SATSUKI!
OUR GOAL IS THE GENROKU CASTLE GARDEN.
...WHERE THE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE YAMIZAKURA CAME FROM
HUFF...
THE YAMIZAKURA HOLY SPIRIT INSIDE SATSUKI, I'LL RETURN IT TO ITS ORE STONE!!
POOR SATSUKI. HE DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD.
LET'S GO!
HANG IN THERE, SATSUKI!!

THEN YAMIZAKURA IS...ALREADY
STARTING TO DIE
YAMIZAKURA IS DESPERATE, TOO.
WE'RE HERE
Guards
ZZZ
NOW, THEN.
ONCE WE GET THROUGH THIS GATE..
PSH
Villain
..WE'LL BE AT OUR DESTINATION - THE GARDEN.
THIS IS WHERE YAMIZAKURA'S ORIGINAL HOLY-SPIRIT STONE IS!!

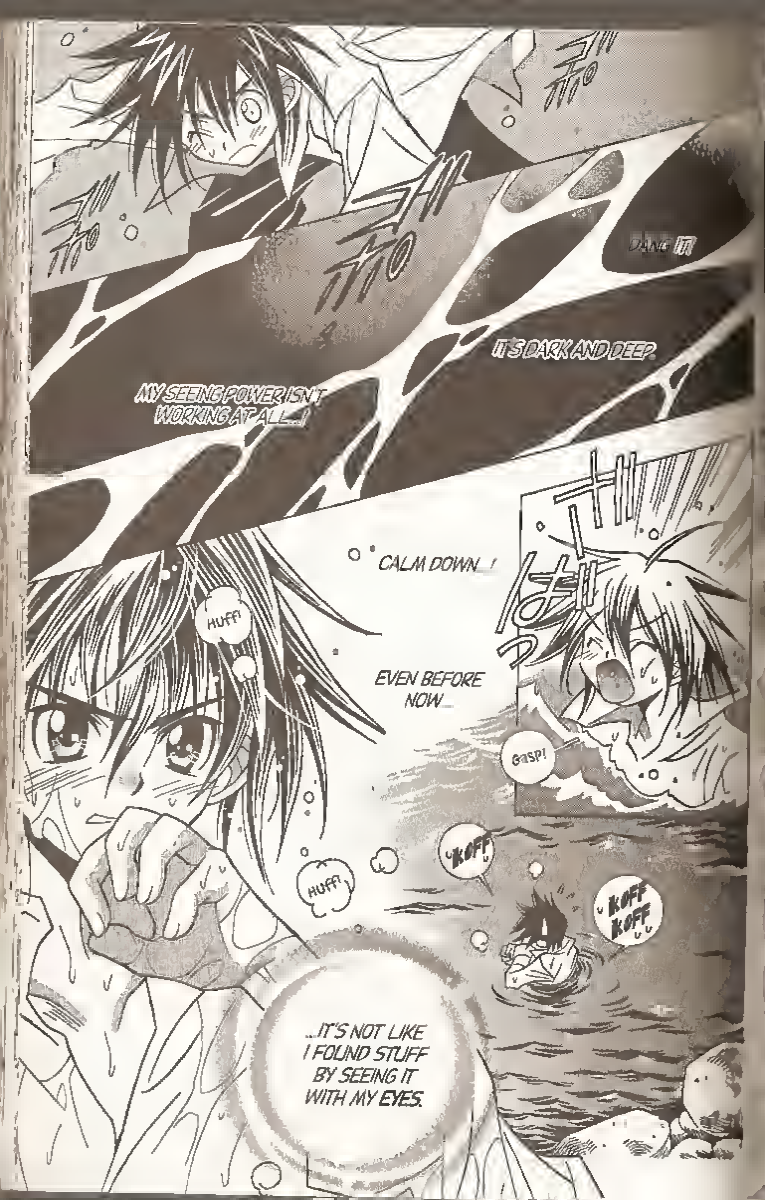
.....
WE'RE IN STEALTH MODE, SO BE QUIET.
SHH
BUT ITS--!
THAT HAPPENS WHEN WE HOLY SPIRITS ARE IN OUR FINAL STAGES
I don't like remembering it!
WHAT ABOUT IT?
Do you remember
THE FIRST TIME YOU PULLED YAMIZAKURA OUT OF THE SHEATH THIS BLACK FOG-LIKE STUFF CAME OUT
UM, HEY RIKU
. IS TO LINK WITH A TSUNAGI.
Like you, Riku
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP IT..
!
WHEN WE LEAVE OURSELVES-- OUR HOLY-SPIRIT STONES-- THEN WE BEGIN TO WEAR AWAY.

HUFF..
WHAT DO WE DO?
DO I TAKE SATSUKI IN THE WATER WITH HIM LIKE THAT?!
SOURCES?
Emm...
I GATHERED A LITTLE INFORMATION BEFORE WE CAME
...AND I LEARNED THAT THE GARDEN WAS REMODELED TEN YEARS AGO
THE ORE STONE FOR THE UNLUCKY DEMON BLADE YAMIZAKURA WAS SUNK TO THE BOTTOM OF A POND
THE BOTTOM OF THE POND?!!
ガビーン!!
THEY'LL BE CURSED FOR SURE!!
THAT'S AWFUL!
...

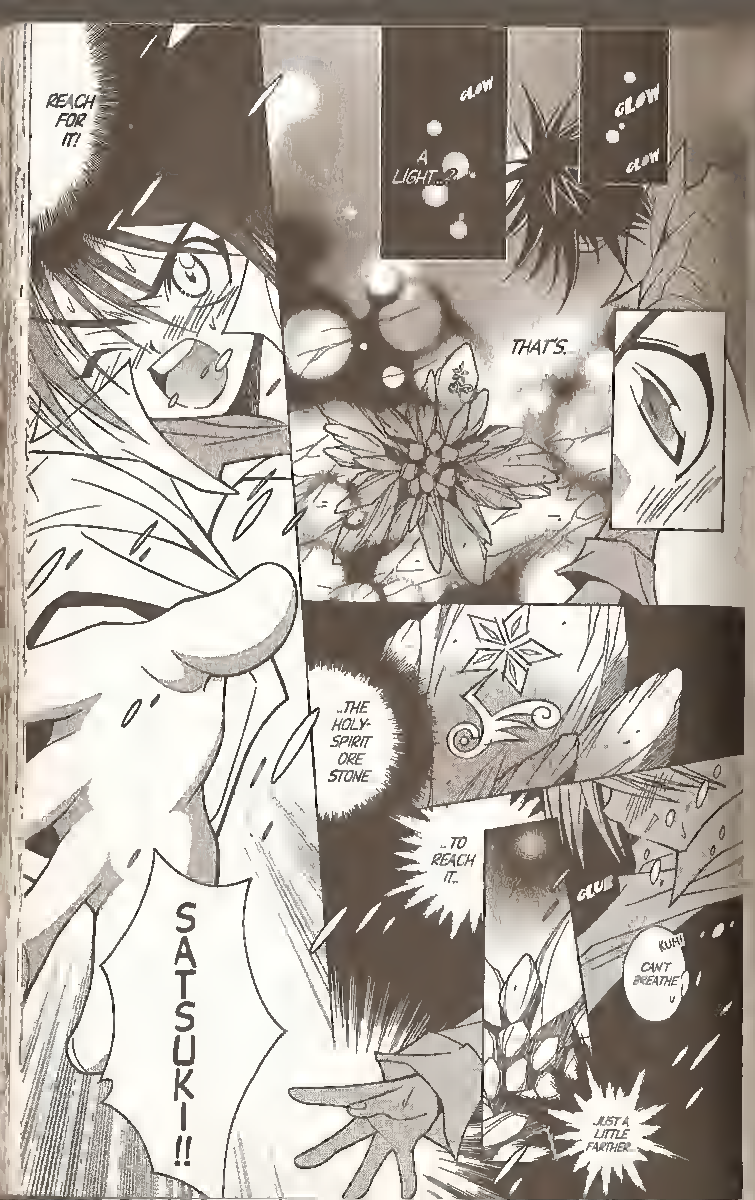
Cherry blossoms in the full?
NO...
IT'S A POND
OH, MAN. SO IT'S JUST LIKE MY SOURCES SAID...
A LAKE?

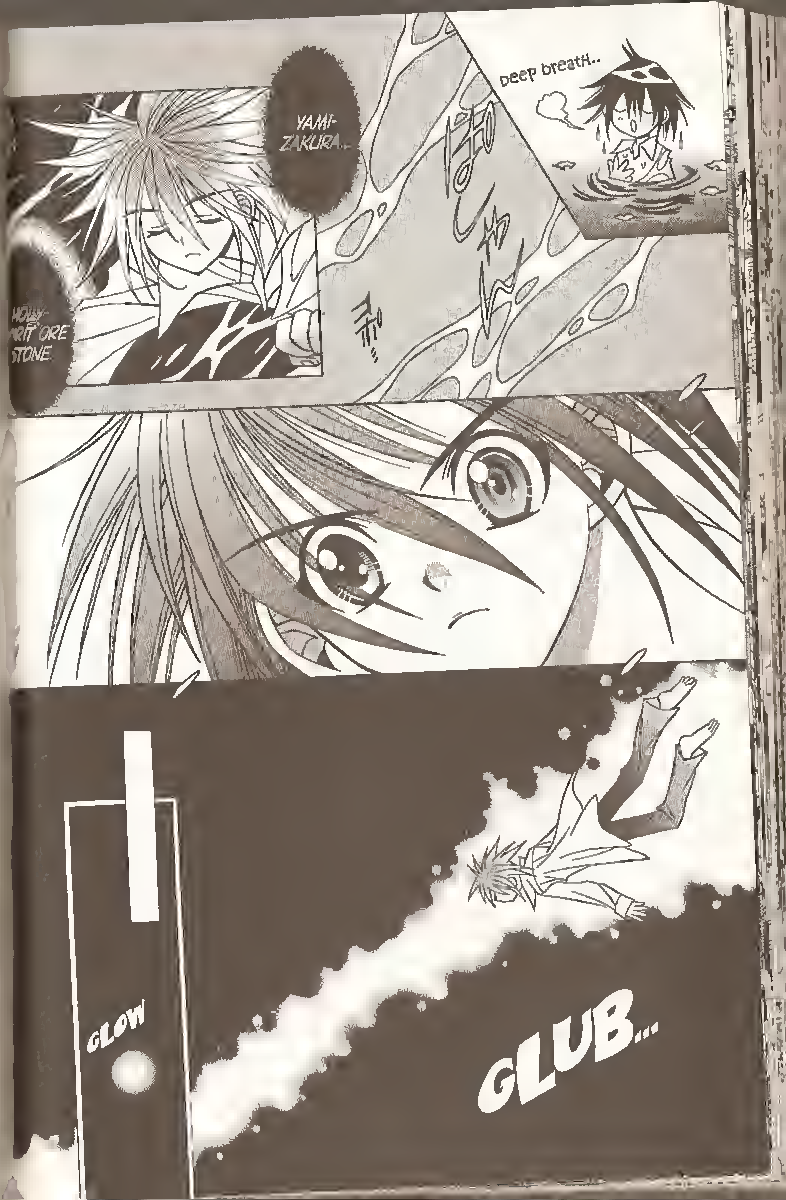
WE DECIDE WHO'LL GO WITH ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS ☆
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
NORTH-PAW
SCISSORS!
ROCK PAPER SCISSORS!
HUH?
RIKU!
YOU DON'T...
HAVE TO BEAR ALL THE BURDEN YOURSELF.
I MEAN I'M THE BEST IN OUR FAMILY AT FINDING THINGS
BE-SIDES...
I'M GOING
WHAT?

RIKU?!
FIRST I'LL...
...GO LOOK FOR THE ORE STONE!
YOU KEEP AN EYE ON SATSUKI!
YOU CAN'T, RIKU!!
SPLASH
!!
WHOA!
KERSPLASH
WHAT MEOW?!
IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO ALONE!
LINK WITH ME AND WE'LL GO TOGETHER!
NNNNNN
BRR!
I CAAAN'T SWIIIIM!
BRR! I'M A CAT RIGHT NOW!
COOOLD!
OFF SEASON!!!


DAMN IT
IT'S DARK AND DEEP
MY SEEING POWER ISN'T WORKING AT ALL...
CALM DOWN...!
HUFF!
EVEN BEFORE NOW...
Gasp!
KOFF
HUFF!
KOFF KOFF
...IT'S NOT LIKE I FOUND STUFF BY SEEING IT WITH MY EYES.

RIKU ?!
...THERE'S NO WAY I COULD'VE MADE IT THIS FAR ON MY OWN!!
BESIDES..
I...
...re... member.
This place... is...my...
I want ... to go home
RIKU..


REACH FOR IT!
A LIGHT...?
GLOW
GLOW
GLOW
THAT'S...
..THE HOLY-SPIRIT ORE STONE
..TO REACH IT..
SATSUKI!!
GLUB
KUH! CAN'T BREATHE
..JUST A LITTLE FARTHER


deep breath..
YAMI-ZAKURA..
HOLY SPIRIT ORE STONE
GLOW
GLUB...

THANK YOU...
...RIKU...
YOU BROUGHT YAMIZAKURA TO ME.
SINCE I...
...LEFT THIS STONE?
HOW MANY CENTURIES HAS IT BEEN?
FLASH

GLOW
THIS LITTLE GIRL IS YAMIZAKURA ...?
SHE WAS A CHILD ..?
YAMI ZAKURA
IS A PIECE OF ME THAT WAS CARVED OFF THE HOLY-SPIRIT ORE STONE TO BE MADE INTO A BLADE.
BUT NOW...
.. IT'S TIME YOU CAME BACK INSIDE ME
RIKU ?!
WHO.
. MIGHT THAT BE?
YOU'RE FLOATING.
HO HO HO♡
Pleasure to meet you. I AM SAKURA. ♡
Um, well...
IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE I
LET THE HOLY SPIRIT OUT OF THE ORE STONE
I can do it!
THAT'S TRUE, HUH?
WHISPER
WHISPER
What did you let out?
THAT IS ME, TOO
?
BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS INSIDE SATSUKI RIGHT?

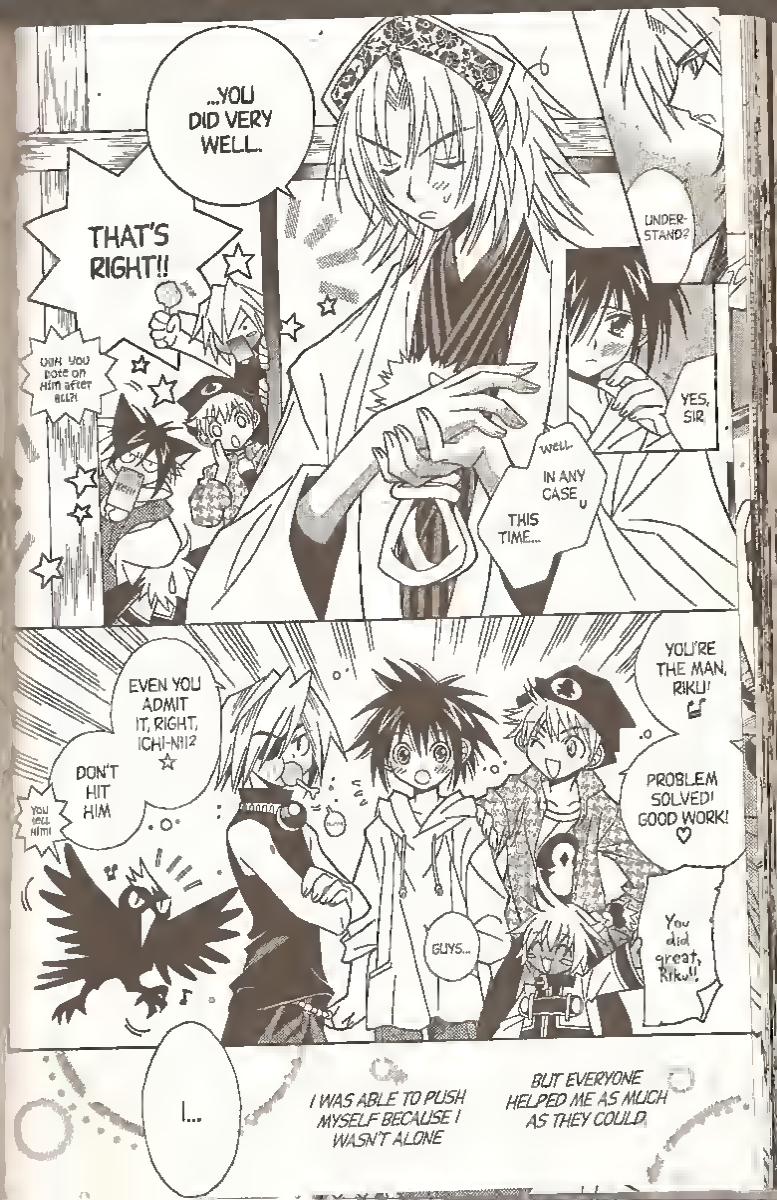
PLIP
RIKU..?
Hey!
I'M NOT PICKING ON YOU!
SO, WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?
ACK! I don't want a hot chick seeing me like this!
A MEN spirit with such a delightful form.
MU! ☺
SUNK
HO HO HO!
SHEESH!
THEY DON'T WASTE ANY TIME. ☆
LIAR! YOU WERE SO CRYING!
I'M NOT CRYING!
It's water from when I was in the pond
NAG!
NAG!

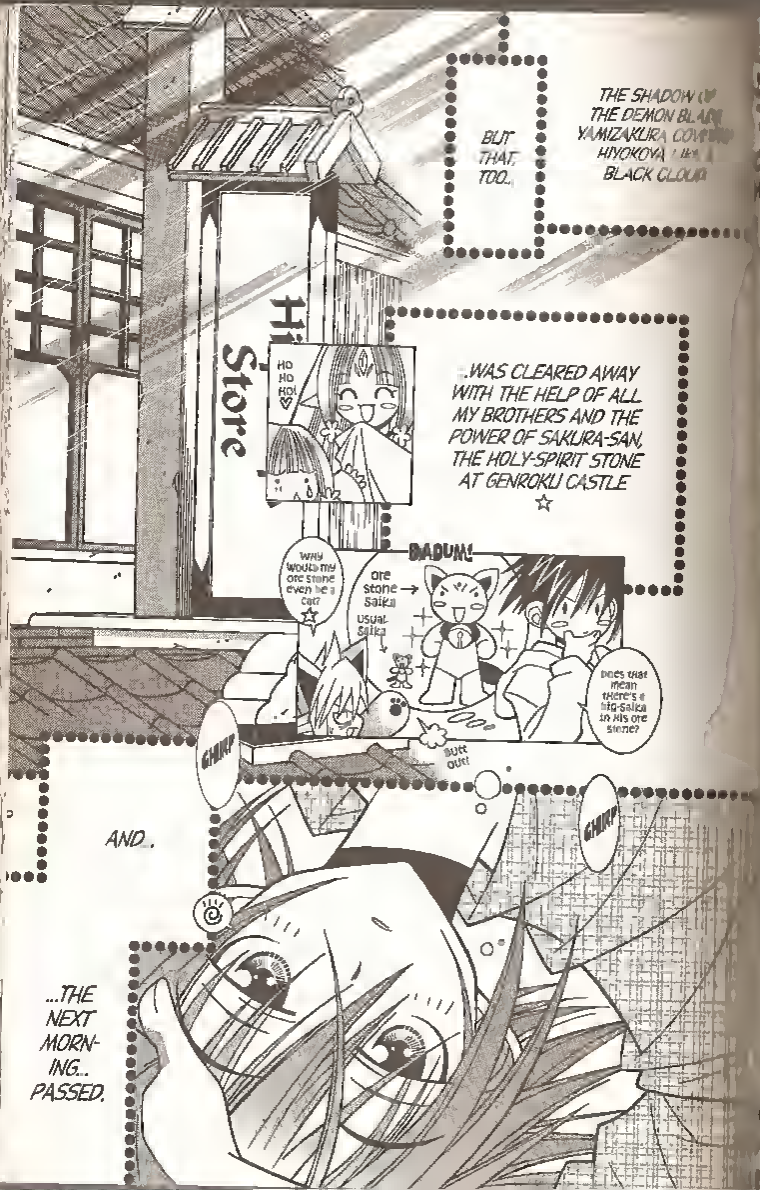
OH, SAKURA!
SA KURA
..IT ALL STARTED BECAUSE I WAS BEING STUBBORN
WELL, REALLY..
WE'VE CAUSED AN AWFUL LOT OF TROUBLE FOR YOU AND THE OTHERS RIKU
PLEASE FORGIVE US.
"YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!"
THAT WAS.
I'M SO SORRY ...SATSUKI!
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW
NNGH
..THE LAST THING I SAID TO SATSUKI

I'M STARVING!
It's because...
...he hasn't eaten in so long
KYAAAA!! SATSUKI-CHAN YOUR BODY'S STILL !
Flailing excited
SO.. ☆
...CASE CLOSED, THEN?
RIKU
SEE ME WHEN YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR CLOTHES.
NO
THERE'S ONE THING LEFT TO DO.
Rice ball
YOU ARE NOT TO BE STUBBORN
...AND DO ANYTHING THAT PUTS EVERYONE, OR YOURSELF IN DANGER AGAIN
PROMISE ME, RIKU
ICHI--
SMACK

Please come see us again ♡
SAKURA-SAN TOOK YAMIZAKURA WITH HER..
...AND RETURNED TO THE ORE STONE.
AND
HI YO KO YA
WELCOME BACK!!
We were so worried!
SATSUKI-CHAN!! EVERYONE!!

★End of Chapter 23★


...YOU DID VERY WELL...
THAT'S RIGHT!!
Ooh, you pose on him after all?!
UNDER-STAND?
YES, SIR
Well... IN ANY CASE... THIS TIME...
YOU'RE THE MAN, RIKU!
PROBLEM SOLVED! GOOD WORK!
You did great, Riku!!
GUYS...
EVEN YOU ADMIT IT, RIGHT, ICHI-NII?
DON'T HIT HIM
You tell him!
I...
I WAS ABLE TO PUSH MYSELF BECAUSE I WASN'T ALONE
BUT EVERYONE HELPED ME AS MUCH AS THEY COULD.

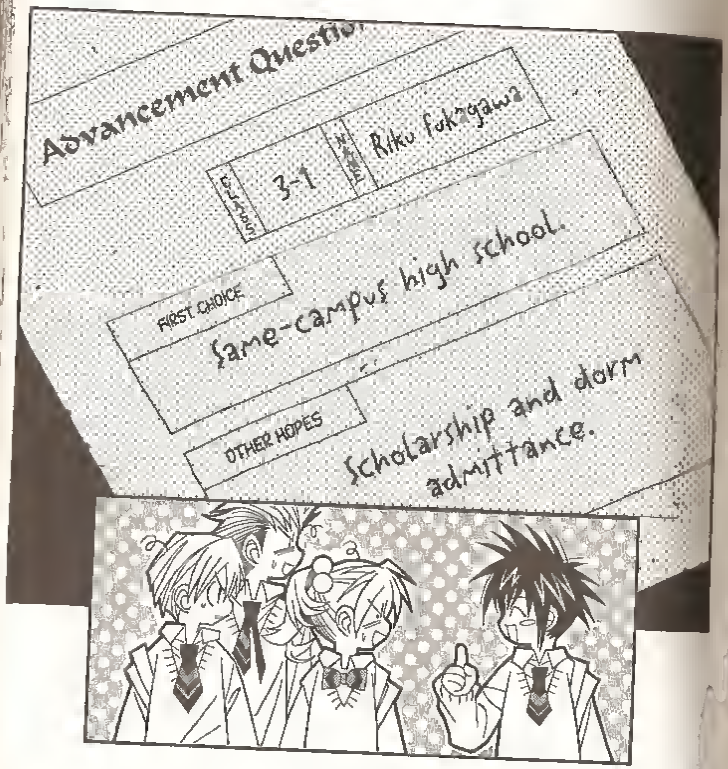

THE SHADOW OF THE DEMON BLADE YAMIZAKURA, COVERING HIYOKOYA LIKE A BLACK CLOUD!
BUT THAT, TOO.
...WAS CLEARED AWAY WITH THE HELP OF ALL MY BROTHERS AND THE POWER OF SAKURA-SAN, THE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE AT GENROKU CASTLE ☆
Hi Store
HO HO HO!
DADUM!
Why would my ore stone even be a cat?
Ore stone → Saika
Usual Saika
Does that mean there's a big-Saika in his ore stone?
Butt out!
CHIRP
CHIRP
AND..
...THE NEXT MORNING... PASSED.

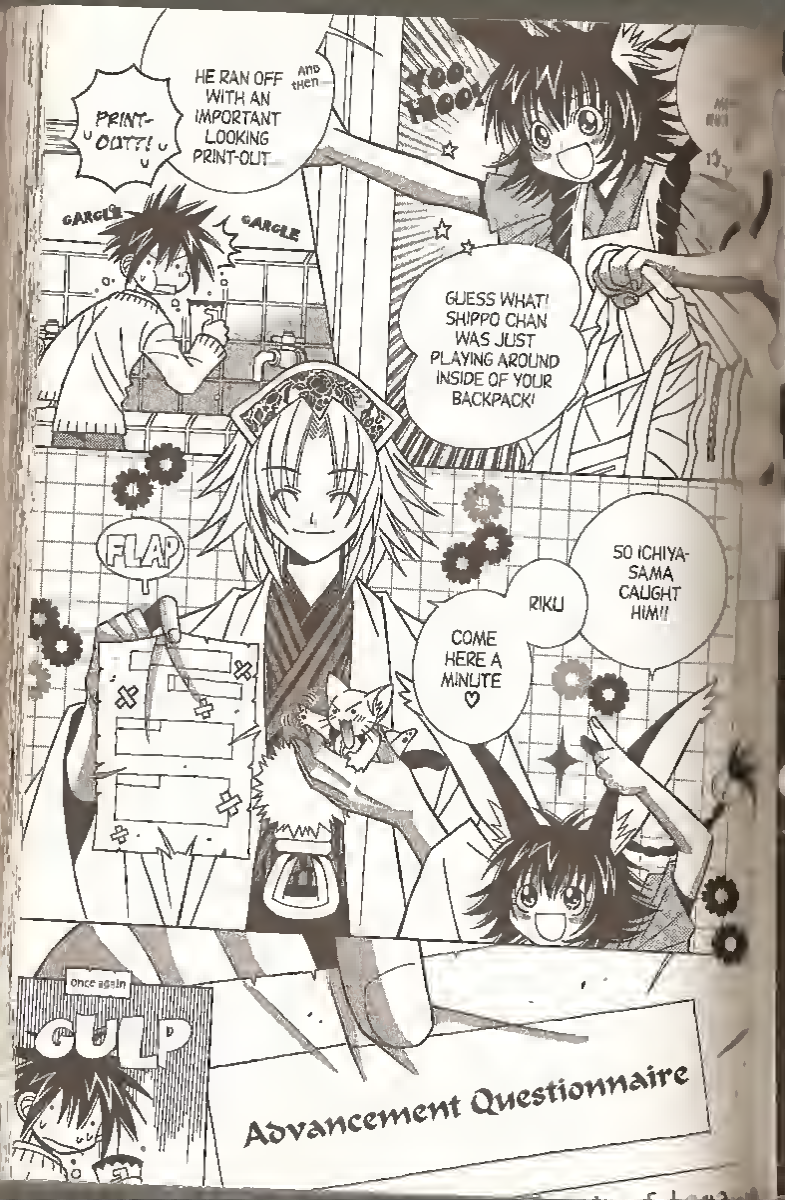
Hiyokoya Bulletin

Hiyokoya Drama CD
RECORDING OBSERVATION REPORT!!
※ Please excuse me for using their characters to represent them ô
By Yuriko Suda
I'm waking on air!
A MUSE HERE!
MEW!
FUKUYAMA-SAN
In the main story and when speaking over the round-table discussion for the extra bonus track, he spoke quickly and clearly!!
Co-version Ruki is rougher than the original.
YAMAGUCHI-SAN
Anyway...
...He's the best Saika ever!!
Please listen, dear customers!
Asks all sorts of sharp questions ô
ISHIDA-SAN
WHY is there no third son?
Script
Absent-minded
CHIBA-SAN
Apparently he thought it was boys love at first! Ha!
Because it's all male characters ...ô
MIDORIKAWA-SAN
I want to run a bike shop!!
Amazing! He played both Furudate! I'm surprised ô
A true Tokyo Ite MORITA-SAN
His personality is just like his voice!
Are you sure you want to check out the unexpected confession he makes in the round-table discussion?
The two mood-makers!
PARK-SAN
Gumo acting other brother!
(When I looked at the script, I realized Aki really is an angry character!) ô
His repeated use of the Instant Rage Technique is almost charming!
NAKAHARA SAN
The two whose voices and actual selves are super cute!
I was very impressed
KUGIMIYA-SAN

Chapter 24

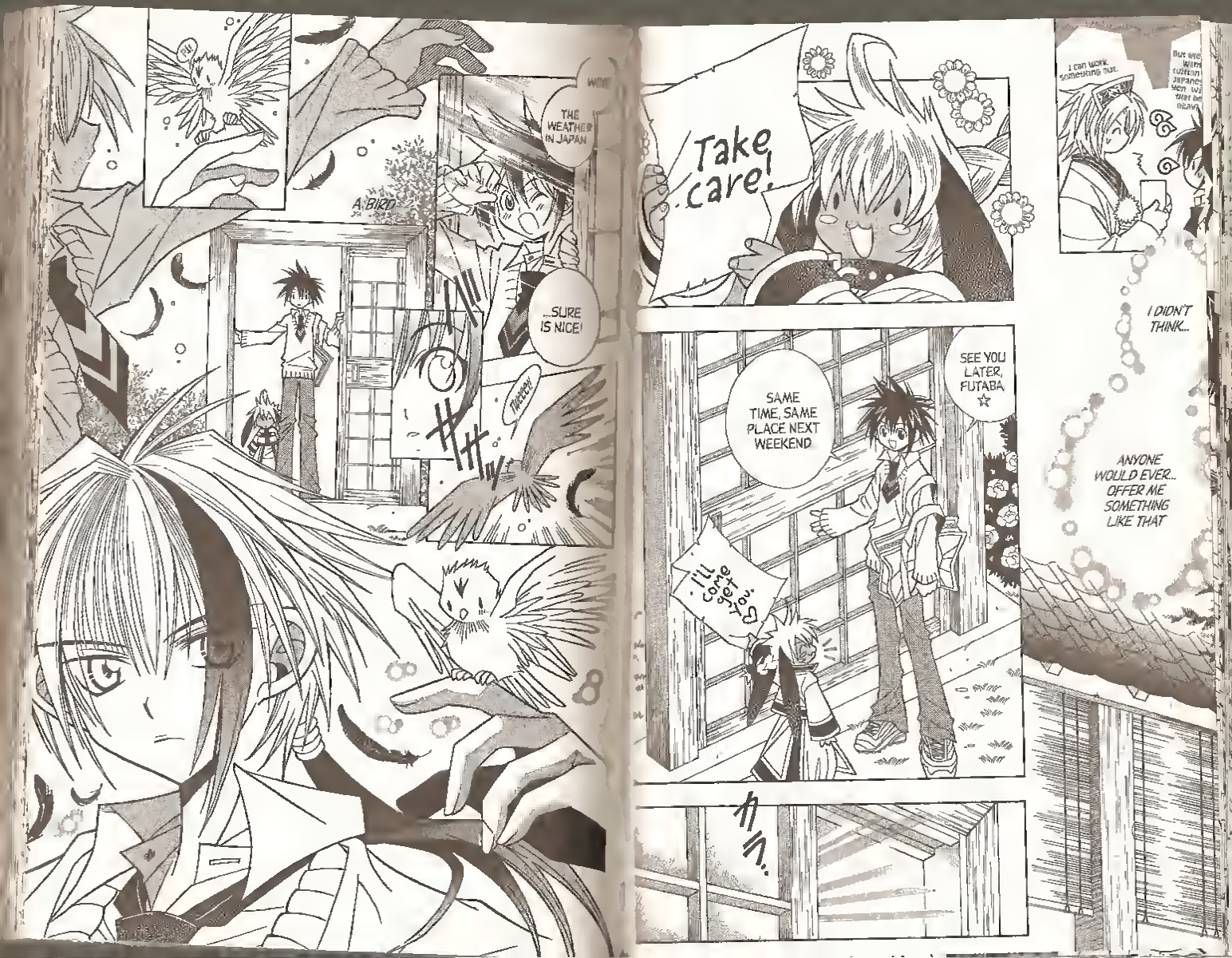
What Will You Do After Middle School?

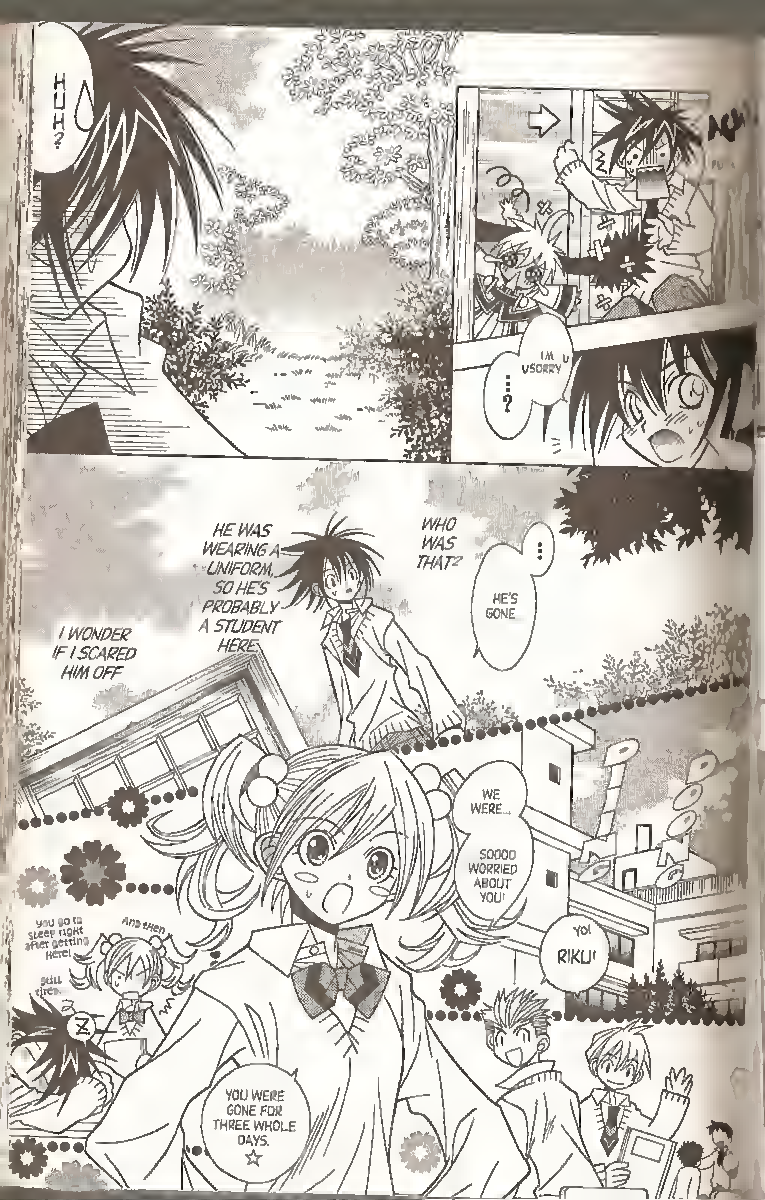



PRINT-OUT?!
HE RAN OFF WITH AN IMPORTANT LOOKING PRINT-OUT...
AND THEN...
GARGLE
GARGLE
GUESS WHAT! SHIPPO CHAN WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND INSIDE OF YOUR BACKPACK!
FLAP
RIKU
COME HERE A MINUTE ♡
SO ICHIYA-SAMA CAUGHT HIM!!
once again
GULP
Advancement Questionnaire

I ALREADY TOOK A FEW DAYS OFF WITH ALL THAT WAS GOING ON.
I see
THAT WON'T DISRUPT YOUR LIFE IN JAPAN?
YEAH
OH, YOU'RE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL TODAY?
HEH HEH HEH
RIKU!
GOOD MORNING ☆
I don't think so.
THERE WAS NO HOMEWORK TODAY. THAT LEAVES PAPERWORK TO TURN IN--
NN?
PAPERWORK TO TURN IN?!
AH.
GULP
RIKU
Um, well...
I ASKED EVERYONE AT THE DORMS TO FEED THE STRAY CATS. ☆
Making sure

YOU MUST BE HEARING THINGS
TALKING ABOUT SPENDING MONEY?!
キョロ
キョロ
PAPERWORK
WAS SOMEONE JUST...
ICHIYA-SAN.
RIKU
WE WOULD ALL BE HAPPY IF WE COULD HAVE YOU HERE EVERY DAY.
WILL YOU THINK IT OVER ONE MORE TIME?
S-
SURE.
THANK YOU.
GRADUATE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ATTEND HIGH SCHOOL FROM HIYOKOYA?
Advancement
GRADE
3-1
NAME
Riku Fukagaw
FIRST CHOICE
Same-campus high school.
OTHER HOPES
Scholarship and dorm admittance.
EH?
BASICALLY, I'M SUPPOSED TO TURN THIS PRINT-OUT IN BY TOMORROW...
I PLAN TO ADVANCE TO THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION OF THE SCHOOL I'M ATTENDING RIGHT NOW. BUT...
I'm sorry
A Lot was going on
I GUESS I FORGOT TO TELL YOU
?
HUH?
I DON'T MIND IF YOU GO ON TO HIGH SCHOOL.
..BUT IS YOUR MIND ALREADY MADE UP ABOUT DORMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS?
AND I INTEND TO PAY YOUR TUITION
PERK
YOU CAN GO TO AND FROM SCHOOL WHILE STAYING AT HIYOKOYA.


WOW!
THE WEATHER IN JAPAN
A BIRD
...SURE IS NICE!
SWOOSH
Take care!
I can work something out.
But we
I DIDN'T THINK...
ANYONE WOULD EVER... OFFER ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT
SEE YOU LATER, FUTABA ☆
SAME TIME, SAME PLACE NEXT WEEKEND
I'll come get you. ♡
カラン


HUH?
AGH
I'M SORRY
...?
WHO WAS THAT?
HE WAS WEARING A UNIFORM, SO HE'S PROBABLY A STUDENT HERE.
I WONDER IF I SCARED HIM OFF
...
HE'S GONE
YOU GO TO SLEEP RIGHT AFTER GETTING HERE!
AND THEN
STILL TIRED
WE WERE...
SOOOO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
YO! RIKU!
YOU WERE GONE FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS.

UM
...
IS THE BIRD HIS PET?
Yamato
AAAH!!
EH...?
...
DORU?!!
EAT

FEEDING THE CATS..
WAS THE ONE THING?
OF COURSE! FEEDING THE CATS IS THE ONE THINGS WE DID PERFECTLY!!
DID YOU FEED THE CATS?
Stupid
Tanaka was here!
MORON
HOW..
...DOES IT GET THIS BAD IN JUST THREE DAYS?

Three days' worth of notes
I'LL BE GETTING HELP FROM YOU AT TEST TIME, RIKU
AS USUAL
NAH
IT'S FINE
SORRY, MIZUNO..
...FOR MAKING YOU COME WITH ME, EVEN AFTER SCHOOL.
Student Dorms
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT DORMS AND STUFF WHEN YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL?
HM?
OH! COME TO THINK OF IT RIKU...
WELL, SEE YOU TOMORROW
AH!
DORM LEADER!
CLASH
HE'S BACK!
IT'S RIKU!
GUYS!
HMM, I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.

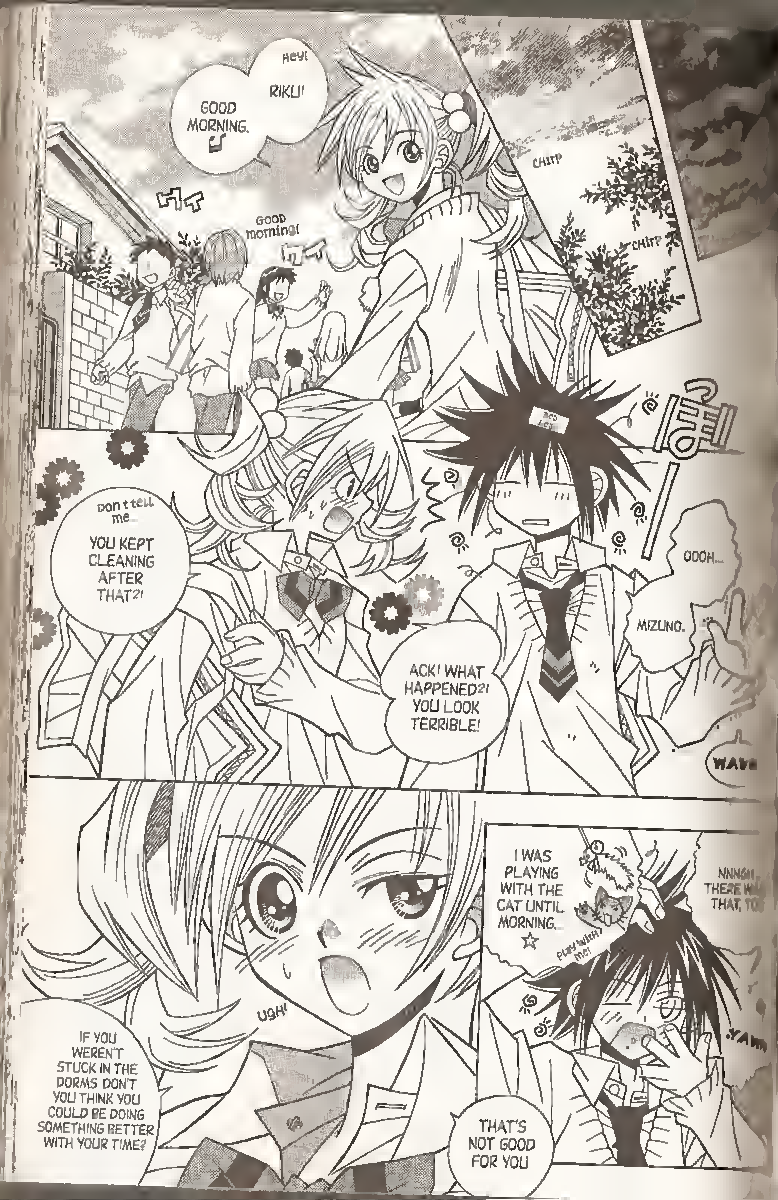
MAYBE.
..YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE DORMS!
KAGURAIN
HUH?
HE'S A WEIRD GUY
HE WON'T TALK TO ANYONE. AND HE'S NOT EVEN IN THE DORMS THAT MUCH, IS HE?
KAGURA...IN? WHO'S THAT?
OH. HIM. ☆
HE CAME HERE WHILE YOU WERE GONE
Hmm.
He's not helping clean right now either.
Makes me sick.
ANYWAY
STARTING RIGHT NOW...
...WE'RE DOING SOME HARD-CORE CLEANING!!
HA HA HA HA!
AND HAVE SOCCER TOURNAMENTS IN THE HALLS AND STUFF.
...THE MICE WILL PARTY LIKE CRAZY IN THE HALLS.
UM, WELL... WHILE THE DORM-LEADER CAT'S AWAY
THIS WOULD BREAK A WINDOW
Dangit.
NOW LOOK..
RIKU
IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR DINNER. ☆

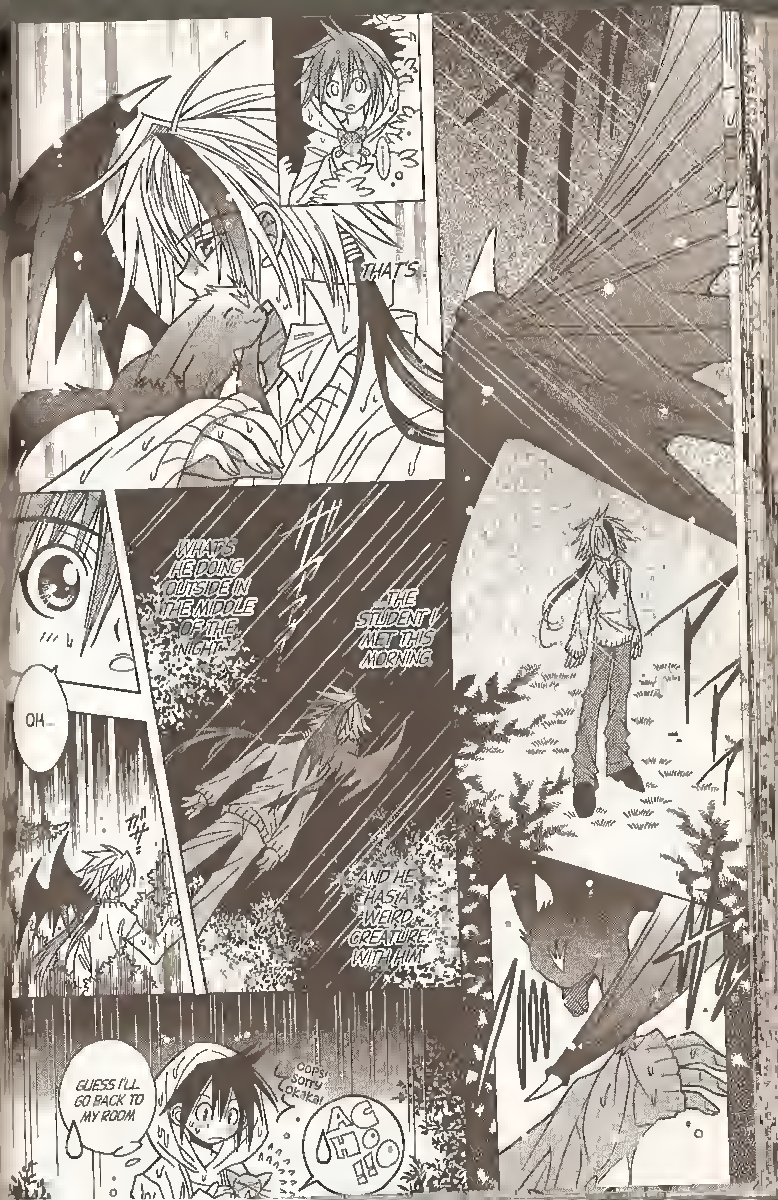
D'OH! IT'S LATE!
BUT THAT BROKEN WINDOW MAY BE IN TROUBLE
びしゃ びしゃ びしゃ
わた わた わた
UM LET'S SEE! FIRST BLOCK THE HOLE WITH PLASTIC CANVAS—
AH! AND I HAVE TO WIPE THE FLOOR, TOO!
SLOSHING
BLOOD
GYA AH!
OW!

WELL ☆ I CAN DO THAT MYSELF
THAT LEAVES MAKING SURE THE TRASH IS SEPARATED, ORGANIZING THE JANITOR'S CLOSET
GOOD WORK, EVERYONE!
ALL RIGHT! ☆
THIS OUGHTTA DO IT
Thanks for your help, Mizuno
See you later!
We're done! Yesssss!
RAIN...?
AND THE WIND'S PICKED UP, TOO

SHOOF...
A CAT?!
SHOOOF!
EH
GASP!
!
MEOW!
OKAKA?!
YASHA!
BAD KITTY!
(MOOOF)
WIPE
WIPE
YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT PLAYING BY YOURSELF IN THE RAIN

I'M WIPING THE FLOOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHILE I'M BLEEDING!
HUFF!
WHO WHAT ...IS MY PROBLEM?!
HUFF!
STING STING
TISSUE
IF I WAS AT HIYOKOYA...
MIGHT NOT VE TURNED T LIKE THIS.
LET'S HAVE DINNER WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
YOU'RE HOPELESS!☆ I GUESS I'LL HELP!
UWAH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE BY YOURSELF, RIKU?
Don't worry about the bleeding!


HEY!
RIKU!
GOOD MORNING.
CHIRP
CHIRP
GOOD morning!
DON'T TELL ME...
YOU KEPT CLEANING AFTER THAT?!
OOOH...
MIZUNO.
ACK! WHAT HAPPENED?! YOU LOOK TERRIBLE!
WAVE
I WAS PLAYING WITH THE CAT UNTIL MORNING...
PLAY WITH ME!
NNNGH... THERE WA THAT, TOO
YAWN
UGH
IF YOU WEREN'T STUCK IN THE DORMS DON'T YOU THINK YOU COULD BE DOING SOMETHING BETTER WITH YOUR TIME?
THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU


THAT'S
WHAT'S HE DOING OUTSIDE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
THE STUDENT I MET THIS MORNING
OH...
AND HE HAS A WEIRD CREATURE WITH HIM.
GUESS I'LL GO BACK TO MY ROOM
OOPS! SORRY, OKAY?
ACHOO

SOMEHOW I...
I REALLY FEEL LIKE I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.
I REALLY APPRECIATED IT. BUT...
...AND I GOT LOTS OF HELP FROM ALL MY BROTHERS
SOME THING HAPPEN-ED.
NO WAY!! WHY?!
HMMM...
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT...?
I REALLY AM GOING TO STAY IN THE DORMS WHEN I GO TO HIGH SCHOOL AND KEEP WITH THE SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THAT...
SO I WANT...
...TO RAISE MY LEVEL...
A LITTLE MORE ON MY OWN OVER HERE.
HMM...
HEH HEH
IF I'M OVER THERE I END UP TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM
AAW...
I WISH HE WOULD HAVE TALKED TO ME ABOUT IT
IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED...
OH, EXCUSE ME!
KAGURAIN-KUN!

ISN'T IT AWESOME?!
LOOK AT THIS, RIKU!
A WEEKEND EVENING AT THE HIYOKOYA STORE..
Hiyokoya Store
You shouldn't be so excited when you're covered in bandages.
I CAME, AS ALWAYS, TO WORK PART TIME ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. BUT...
DURING THE BUSINESS TRIP I DECIDED TO CATCH ONE WHILE I WAS AT IT!
It was a fierce sushi-fight! Against Louis Pinchers Lyle Crabs!
IT'S FOR TOMORROW'S CELEBRATION
A SPACE CREATURE?
WHAT IS THAT?
A MISO CRAB!
THEY'RE DELICIOUS ♡
While you were at it!
YOU SAID YOU WERE HOPING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP
ABOUT THE ADVANCEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE YOU TURNED IN
KAGURA-IN KUN?
YO!
RIKU! MIZUNO!
on TV last night
You don't say!
WE ONLY GIVE A SCHOLARSHIP TO ONE STUDENT IN EACH GRADE
3-3
Kyo Kagurain
..THERE WILL HAVE TO BE AN EXAMINATION
IF A CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT WANTS TO PROGRESS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION
OTHER HOPES
Scholarship
I DON'T MIND
WHAT IS THIS? A RIDDLE?!
What?
..WHAT KIND OF BIRD FLIES IN A STORM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
A lot of blinds I don't know
Even in Japan, there are still
BY THE WAY..
OH, yeah!

★ End of Chapter 24 ★

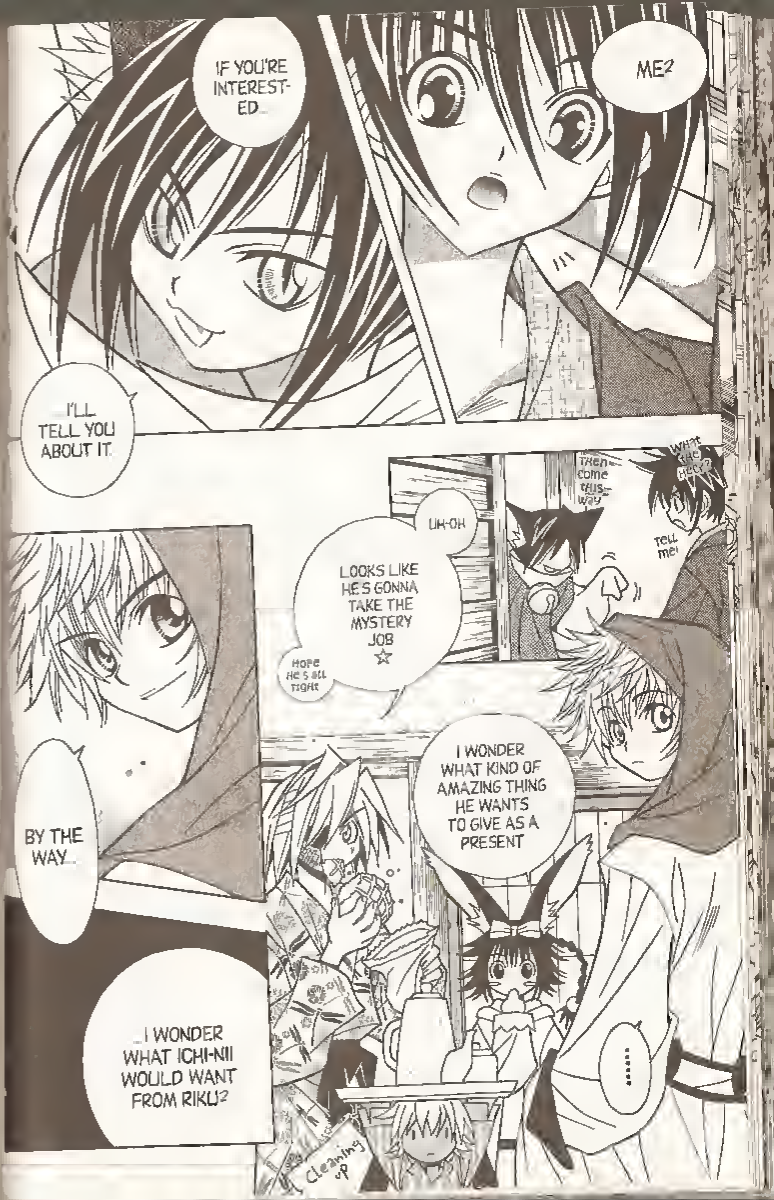
A HOT WATER BOTTLE!
HE COOKS MORE THAN YOU'D THINK.
Meanwhile –
..I'M GIVING HIM A PRESSURE COOKER AND AN APRON
When the shop's closed.
BECAUSE ICHIYA-SAMA GETS COLD EASILY!
SINCE ICHIYA-SAN LIKES FLOWERING TREES
YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ICHIYA-SAN!
YOU'RE ALL AMAZING!!
WELL, WE ARE FAMILY.
More or less

RIKU
AH
WELCOME HOME.
ERK!
IS SOMETHING HAPPENING TOMORROW?
Came nearly and got to write!
IT'S ICHIYA-NII'S BIRTHDAY. DUH.
WHAT? HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR YOUR OLDER BROTHERS?!
EH?
Chapter 25
Five Years' Worth of Presents
Hyodoya Store

IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT...
I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING!!
EH!?
WHO'S THERE!?!
AH!
THE Master of exquisite taste!!
...LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO A SAME-DAY HIGH-PAYING JOB!!!
MIO.
AND THEY'VE ASKED FOR YOU ☆
HeRi HeRi HeRi
SAME ᵛDAY HIGH-ᵛPAYING_?
IT'S NOT ᵛANYTHING ᵛSUSPICIOUS, IS IT?
IT'S IN A BRIGHT, SANITARY WORKPLACE.
1 PM
BUT I WANT TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING
SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE...
EH?!
I'm going to stay in the dorms in Japan for high school, too
...KIND OF DISAPPOINTED. ICHIYA-SAN ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL AND ALL.
I see...

COME TO THINK OF IT...
I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ICHIYA-SAN... DO I?
THAT'S BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU RIKU
THIS'S ACTUALLY REFRESHING
Japanese snacks are yummy ♡
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY A PRESENT TOMORROW, I'LL GO WITH YOU
I'D LIKE TO, BUT...
EH?
IS MIO EXPLOITING YOU?
YOU'RE BROKE
I'm human
Tee Hee Hee
At any rate... THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED FIRST.
ちゃりーン
CHING

Hiyokoya Store
WELL, I'M OFF
IT'S ONLY AN INTRODUCTION SEMINAR FOR A NEW PRODUCT SO I'LL BE BACK TONIGHT
BUT, YOU SEE
CERTAINLY
..WOULDN'T ANYTHING MAKE HIM HAPPY?
..THEY DO SAY, "BETTER TO BUILD MEMORIES THAN THINGS." ♡


ME?
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED..
..I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
WHAT DID I HEAR?
THEN COME THIS WAY
TELL ME!
UH-OH
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA TAKE THE MYSTERY JOB ☆
HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF AMAZING THING HE WANTS TO GIVE AS A PRESENT
BY THE WAY..
..I WONDER WHAT ICHI-NII WOULD WANT FROM RIKU?
Cleaning up

I'LL EXPLAIN WHEN I GET BACK
SO? ☆ WHAT KIND OF JOB IS IT, ANYWAY?!
Hey, c'mon!
Take care! ♥
I'M OFF!
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.
YOU LISTENING, RIKU!?
...CAN I REALLY COMPLETE IT ALL RIGHT?
I WENT AHEAD AND ACCEPTED THE JOB, BUT...
HMMMMMM
TUMP ☆
I CAN'T WAIT
LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PRESENTS ♪
That's not the right reason!
WE'RE HAVING CRAB FOR DINNER.
SO COME STRAIGHT HOME!
Darn! ☆
You missed him by a second!
I WAS THINKING I'D GO WITH HIM AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO GET HIM
ICHIYA-SAN'S LEFT ALREADY?!
HUH?
RIKU-CHAN, WHY ARE YOU IN YOUR UNIFORM?
OH THIS?
MIO TOLD ME THAT I NEEDED..
...TO DRESS FOR MY JOB TODAY
SO..
I CAN'T HELP OUT AT THE SHOP TODAY I'M SORRY
OH WELL... AS LONG AS MIO'S OKAY WITH IT

...RELEASE THE HOLY SPIRIT MIKAN-SAMA FROM MY HOME'S HOLY-SPIRIT STONE!
GASP
You know its name?
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO PLEASE...
THROUGH ANOTHER TSUNAGI DURING MY FATHER'S GENERATION I WAS STILL ONLY A SMALL CHILD.
NERVOUS
Here it's your offering.
I WAS TERRIBLY IMPRESSED.
ACTUAL-LY...
I'VE MET WITH MIKAN-SAMA ONCE IN THE PAST.
DON'T MESS IT UP!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU..
...AT THE TIME OF THE REQUEST... IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THERE WERE ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS...BUT IF ANYTHING LOOKS SUSPICIOUS WHEN YOU GET THERE FORGET IT AND COME RIGHT HOME!
THE YOUNG MASTER WILL SELL ME TO THE SHAMISEN SHOP!
THAT'S RIGHT...
THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MYSTERIOUS "HIGH-PAYING JOB"
WOOOW
IS THIS THE PLACE?
ARE YOU THE TSUNAGI? ♡
WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
OOHH!!

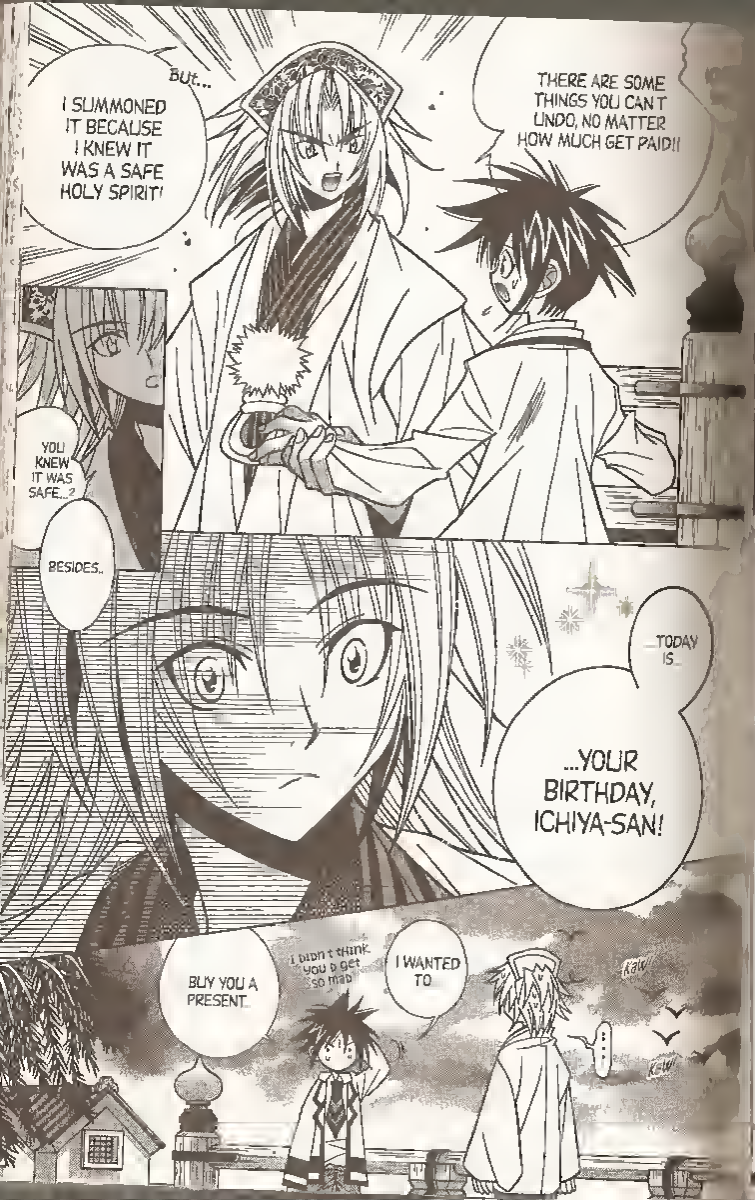
HE'S HERE!!
OH!
RIGHT THIS WAY!
YES, SIR!
I WANT
EH?
OUT-SIDE?
ALL RIGHT ☆ HERE I GO!
TSUNAGI-SAMA HOLY SPIRIT SUMMONING FESTIVAL
WOOOO!
We've been waiting!
Hurry and let her out!

IT WAS WORTH ASKING HIYOKOYA SO MANY TIMES ♡
OH, really?
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
TO THINK I CAN MEET HER AGAIN AFTER 20 YEARS!
ISHW
ISHW
ISHW
THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO LIKES THIS PLACE
THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN GOOD CARE OF IT ALL THIS TIME
IS BEING TRANSMITTED FROM THE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE
SOMETHING WARM.
I'M GLAD.
SHALL WE GET STARTED?
WELL, THEN
HEY, WHEN...
...DID I LEARN TO TELL THAT KIND OF THING?

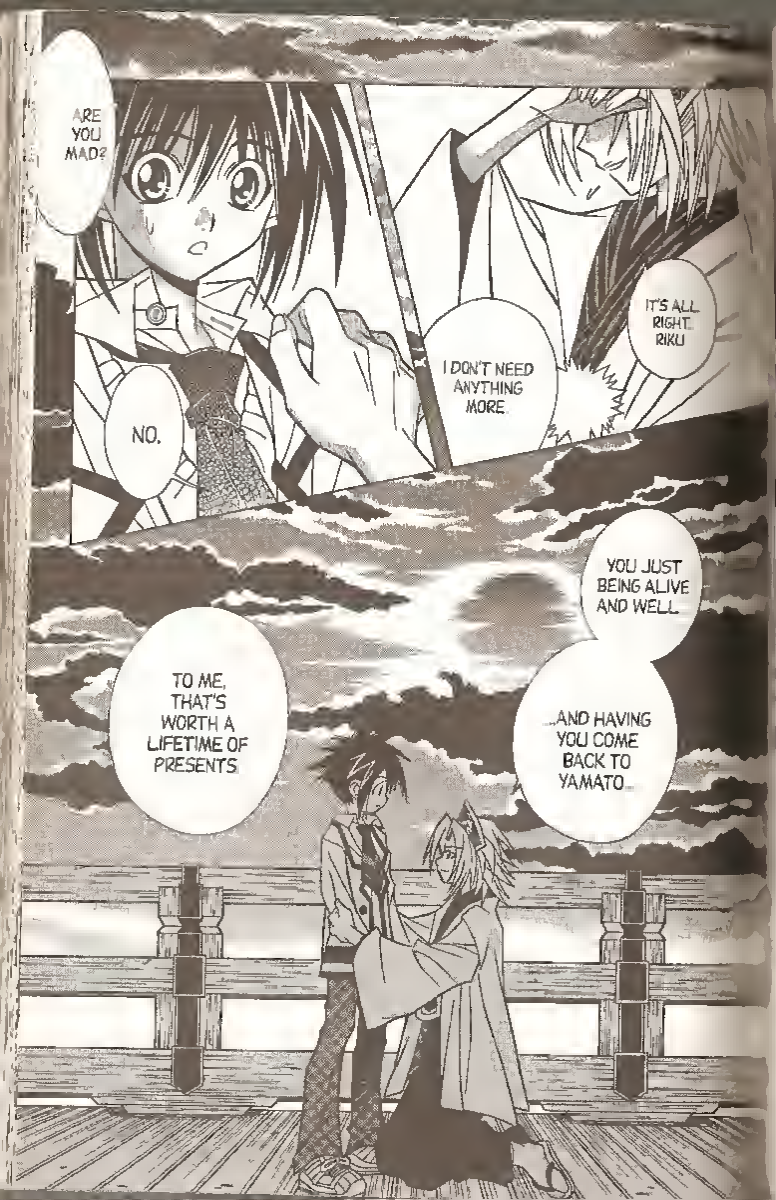
IT CAN'T BE...
OOH?
A TSUNAGI? THAT'S UNUSUAL.
YOU CAN SEE ONE OF THOSE TSUNAGI GUYS LETTING A HOLY SPIRIT OUT FROM ITS STONE!
THEY SAY IF THE GUARDIAN OF THE MAIN SHRINE COMES UP AHEAD
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT!
HEY!
HIYOKOYA-SAN?!
HE'S FAST!
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE SUCH A RUBBERNECKER
!

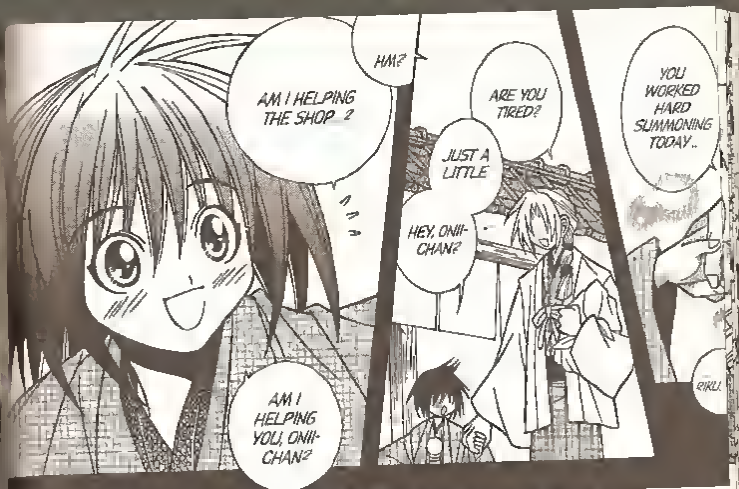
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
I'LL DO IT.
I WAS JUST SO HAPPY I INVITED EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A FESTIVAL
I WANT TO GET A PHOTO WITH HIM!
DON'T PUSH!
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU NOT OKAY WITH ALL THIS? I'M SORRY!
YAYA
W-W-W-W-WHAT THE-?!
OOHH, SO THIS IS THE TSUNAGI!
MY GOODNESS
THE NEW PRODUCT SEMINAR CERTAINLY WENT LONG DIDN'T IT?
INDEED
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR A DRINK HIYOKOYA-SAN?
OH
I'M SORRY, BUT
..I'LL HAVE TO PASS TODAY.
HEEEEY! HAVE YOU HEARD?!

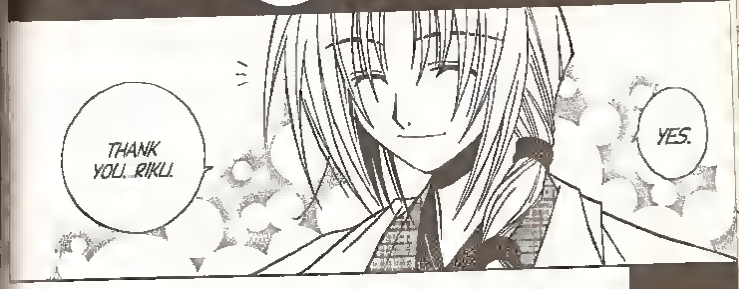
GLENGH
BIG BROTHER!
HELP ME!
RIKU..
You sure got big!
RIKU.
RI--!
I'm AUTA!
WHEW!
ICHIYA-NII-CHAN!
YAAAAAAY!
HUH?
RIKU.
You were here?
HUH?
ICHIYA-SAN?
WE'RE GOING HOME.
PUT THE HOLY SPIRIT BACK IN THE STONE

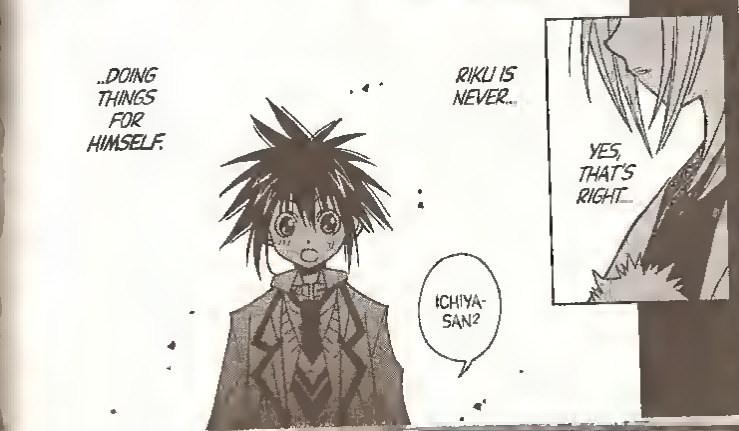

BUT...
I SUMMONED IT BECAUSE I KNEW IT WAS A SAFE HOLY SPIRIT!
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T UNDO, NO MATTER HOW MUCH GET PAID!!
YOU KNEW IT WAS SAFE...?
BESIDES..
...TODAY IS...
...YOUR BIRTHDAY, ICHIYA-SAN!
BUY YOU A PRESENT.
I didn't think you'd get so mad
I WANTED TO
KAW
KAW

UM!
TAKE THIS WITH MY THANKS..
SHUFF
NO, THANK YOU.
EEE EH?!
NO, BUT--!
UM..?
...SOMETHING YOU WANTED BADLY ENOUGH TO RISK ANOTHER ACCIDENT?
!
IS IT..
I EARNED THAT MONEY!
WHY D YOU DO THAT?!
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO USE IT FOR?
UMM
GULP!


ARE YOU MAD?
NO.
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING MORE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, RIKU.
YOU JUST BEING ALIVE AND WELL...
...AND HAVING YOU COME BACK TO YAMATO...
TO ME, THAT'S WORTH A LIFETIME OF PRESENTS.


HM?
AM I HELPING THE SHOP...?
AM I HELPING YOU, ONII-CHAN?
ARE YOU TIRED?
JUST A LITTLE.
HEY, ONII-CHAN?
YOU WORKED HARD SUMMONING TODAY...
RIKU


THANK YOU, RIKU.
YES.


...DOING THINGS FOR HIMSELF.
RIKU IS NEVER...
ICHIYA-SAN?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT...

OH!
YOU CAME BACK TOGETHER
YAAAY!
YOU'RE FINALLY BACK!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO WASTE ANY TIME!
munch
munch
You're making too much food!
LIKE WHAT?
"SUPER SCARY WHEN ANGRY"
very scary
BUT...
Could it be that
ICHIYA-SAN HAS BEEN WORRYING ABOUT ME WHILE I WAS IN JAPAN, AND IS STILL WORRIED NOW?
DID YOU CHOOSE A PRESENT TOGETHER?
APPARENTLY HE DOESN'T NEED ONE
I feel so inadequate.
You shouldn't have!
Sorry, sorry
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ICHIYA-SAN LIKE THAT

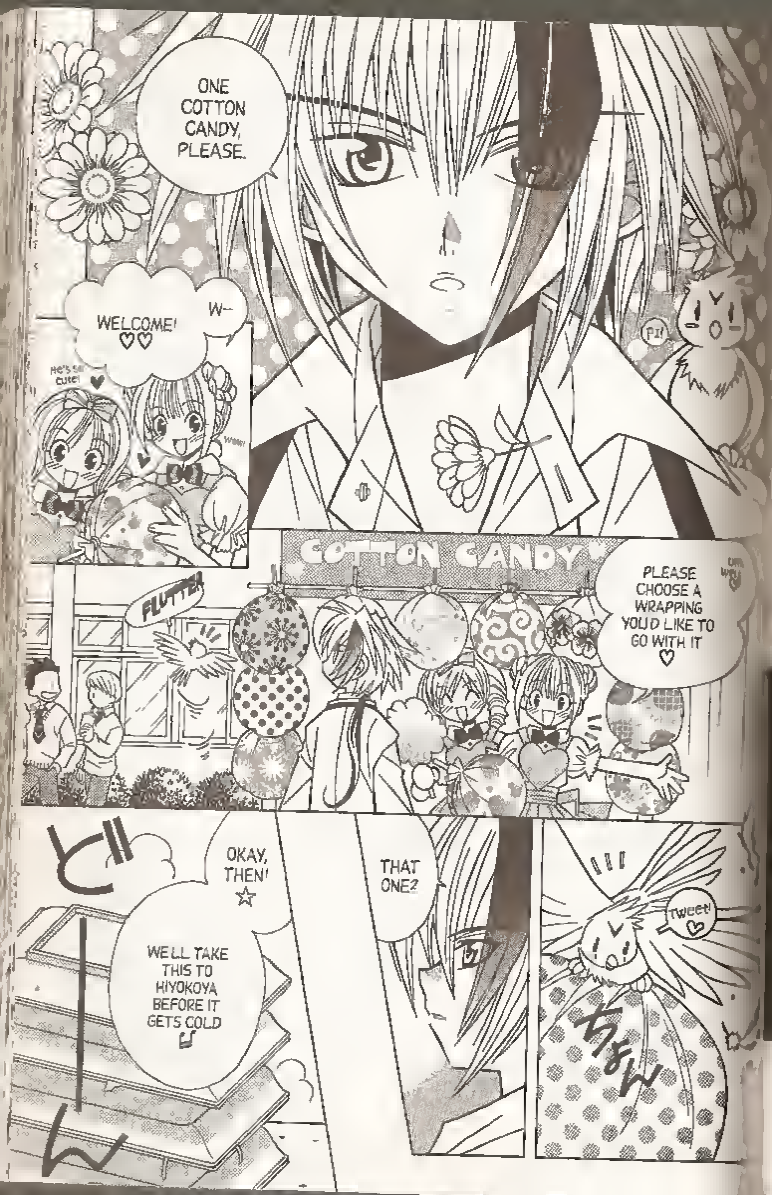
ND I COULDN'T
VE MY BROTHER
HEN HE CALLED
OR HELP RIGHT
FORE MY EYES.

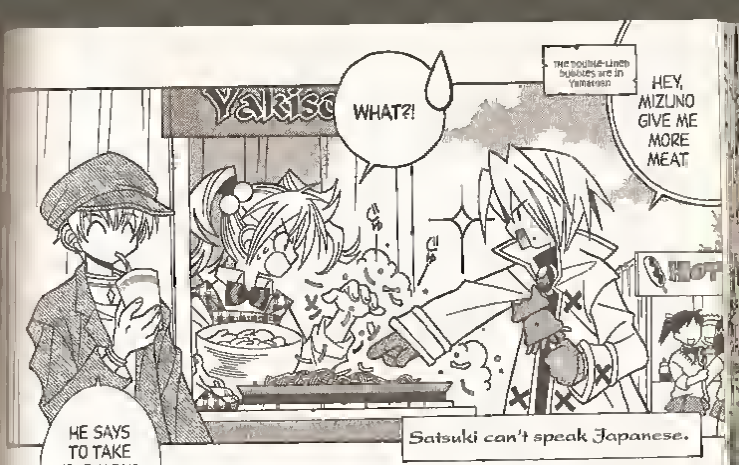
ICHIYA-SAN...
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY LONELY IN JAPAN
I'M SORRY.
I WAS RIGHT NEXT TO HIM, AND YET I DIDN'T KNOW THE DANGER OF BEING A TSUNAGI.

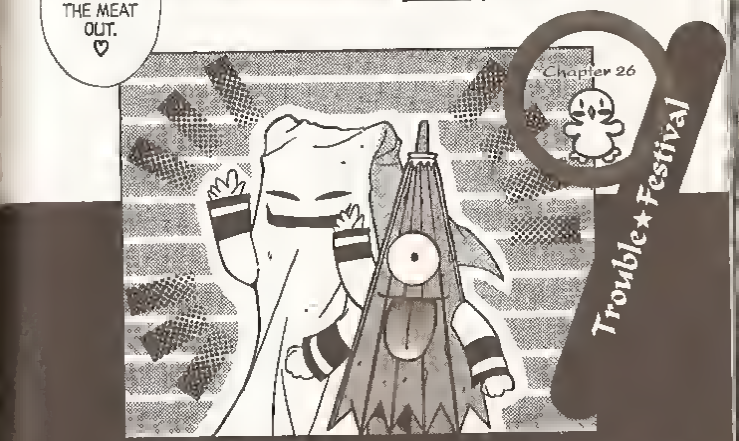
SNIFFLE
RIKU...
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO BE LONELY
THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT ICHIYA-SAN THAT I DON'T KNOW...
..BUT FIRST, I'LL START WITH LETTING ICHIYA-SAN GET TO KNOW ME.
DID YOU PULL OFF YOUR JOB?
WELL?
Min may I speak with you ?
Ascent fee
★ End of Chapter 25 ★

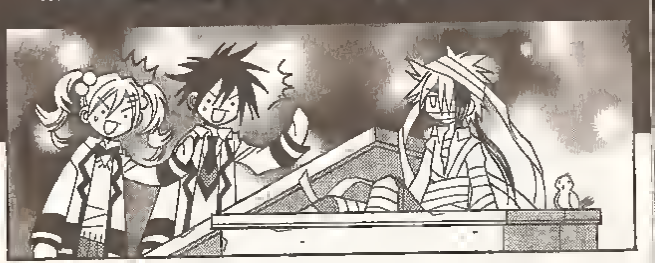
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
EH?!
THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO JAPAN FOR A BIT
WHERE ARE RIKU AND FUTABA?
OH?
WHAT'S THIS?
MORE LIKE A LOAN.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ICHIYA-SAN!
HERE ARE YOUR PRESENTS!
ALBUM
ALBUMS ..2
IT'S BELATED BUT, IT'S MY REPORT ON "MY STUDY ABROAD IN JAPAN."
I WAS SO FASCINATED BY STRANGE AND UNUSUAL THINGS EVERY DAY..

15TH ANNUAL CULTURAL
AUTUMN DEEPENS
AND TODAY IS MY SCHOOL'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL!
MY CLASS IS RUNNING A YAKISOBA STAND ☆
WELCOME! COME ONE, COME ALL!
We'll add red pickled ginger for free!! ♡
Currently on du
Fukagawa & Miz
Yakisoba
WE'LL TAKE THREE PLATES OF YAKISOBA ♪
OH! Satsuki says he wants an extra large serving
What's a cultural festival?
Some kind of party?
Memo
WHAT IS THIS, A FAMILY YAKISOBA FESTIVAL?
AND TO TAKE HOME, I NEED THREE PLATES FOR ICHI-NII AND ONE EACH FOR KONOHANA, MIO AND THE GREAT HOLY SPIRIT


ONE COTTON CANDY, PLEASE.
W-
WELCOME! ♡♡
He's so cute!
COTTON CANDY
FLUTTER
PLEASE CHOOSE A WRAPPING YOU'D LIKE TO GO WITH IT ♡
OKAY, THEN! ☆
WE'LL TAKE THIS TO HIYOKOYA BEFORE IT GETS COLD
THAT ONE?
tween!
ちょん


Yakiso
WHAT?!
The double-lined bubbles are in Japanese.
HEY, MIZUNO GIVE ME MORE MEAT
HOT
HE SAYS TO TAKE THE MEAT OUT. ♡
Satsuki can't speak Japanese.


Chapter 26
Trouble★Festival



HEY, KAGURA!
AH!
GASP!
WHAT DID YOU JUST...?
...?!
SHEESH!
What a jerk!
PFFT!
OOH! THAT WAS...
...KYO KAGURA FROM CLASS 3!
YAY!
BANG
ALL THE GIRLS ARE TALKING ABOUT HIM, SAYING HE'S REALLY GOOD-LOOKING, BUT SUPER UNFRIENDLY.
Hmm
SO HE'S FAMOUS?
HMM
HE JUST CAME INTO THE DORMS A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT...
BOO!

WHOA!
HEY!
THAT LOOKS DANGEROUS, SATSUKI!
Easy As
Evermore
Yakisoba
BANG
Later!
WE'LL BE BACK LATER, KAY?
OOF--
WATCH IT!
OOPS!
SORRY!

EH?!
DO YOU LIKE GUYS...
...LIKE KAGURAIN, TOO, MIZUNO-CHAN?
JUST WHO IS HE...?
I'M NOT LIKE THAT!
OH, COME ON, SHII KUN!!
I...
HA HA HA!
UM, WELL...
I PREFER
OH, WELL. LET'S MAKE SOMETHING SWEET...
LIKE AN OPEN BOOK...
DID YOU NOTICE SATSUKI?
UHM...
THAT KAGURAIN GUY BACK THERE.
.....
DRAT
THE YAKISOBA GOT COLD, AFTER ALL.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DORMS--
THERE'S NOTHING.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE TALKED, ISN'T IT?
OH! KAGURAIN!
CLICK
I'M FUKAGAWA, FROM ROOM 1.
I'M THE DORM LEADER.
バタン
SLAM
UM.
BUT HE WON'T BRING IT UP AT ALL.
HE SAW ME COMING OUT OF THE SLIDING DOOR FROM THE OTHER WORLD.
THE FIRST TIME I MET KAGURAIN...

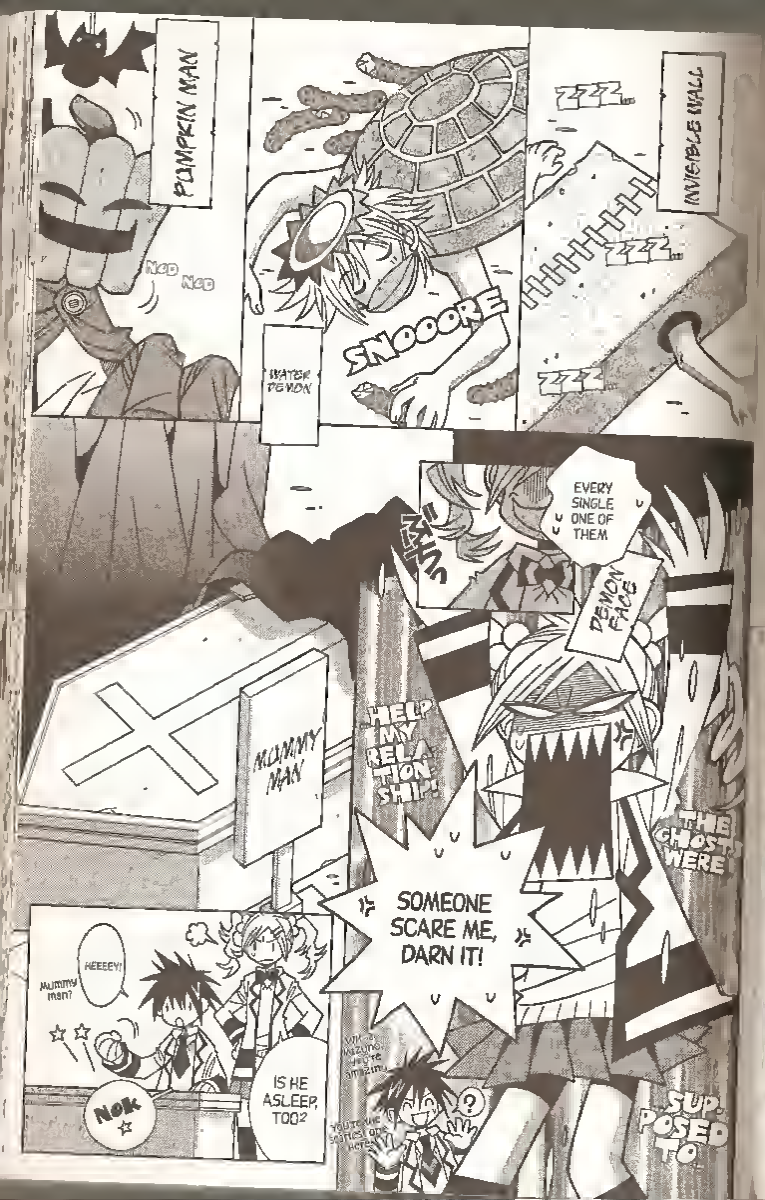
OUR SHIFT IS OVER!
Corn on the Cob
Crepe
Currently on duty!
& Miso
RIKU!
DO YOU HAVE PLANS TO GO TO THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL WITH SOMEONE AFTER THIS?
NO ONE FROM ANY CLASS, AT LEAST.
ドキ
IS THIS MY CHANCE..?
IS THIS..
ドキ
THEN, HEY, LET'S GO TOGETHER!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT
Wanted Reward
IT'S HIM!
HUH? WHAT ABOUT HIM?
MAYBE I HEARD WRONG
WHEN YOU BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER
..FOR A SECOND.. HE SAID SOMETHING IN OUR LANGUAGE
WE FOUND HIM!
THE FUGITIVE FROM YAMATO!!
WHO
THE FUGITIVE!
ALL RIGHT! AFTER HIM!
AFTER!
DOSHI
DOSHI

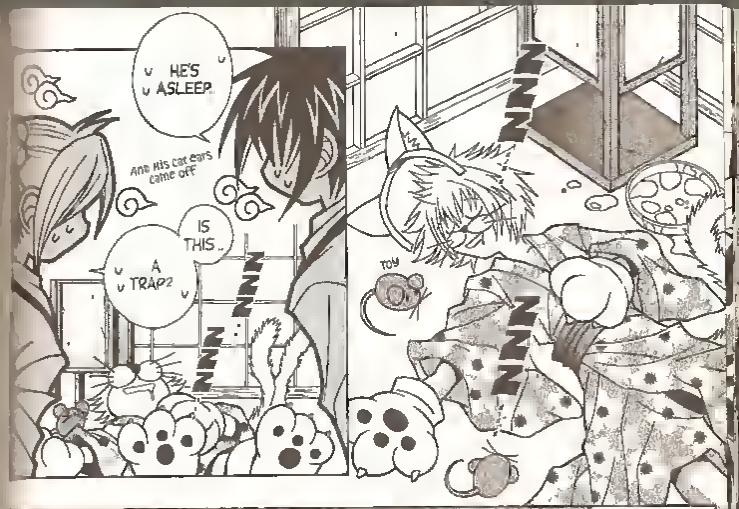
HAUNTED HOUSE
So scary!
HAUNTED!
Wah Hi He There's already something popping out!
THE OBLIGATORY
...HAUNTED HOUSE!!
oooooHH!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO IN
HOLD IT!!!
Come on!
drag
THEY'RE COSTUMES.
Just like Yamato.
UH-HUH
...OF CLANS IN JAPAN, TOO, HUH?
SO, THERE ARE ALL KINDS.
YO, RIKU!
ghost
paper umbrella ghost

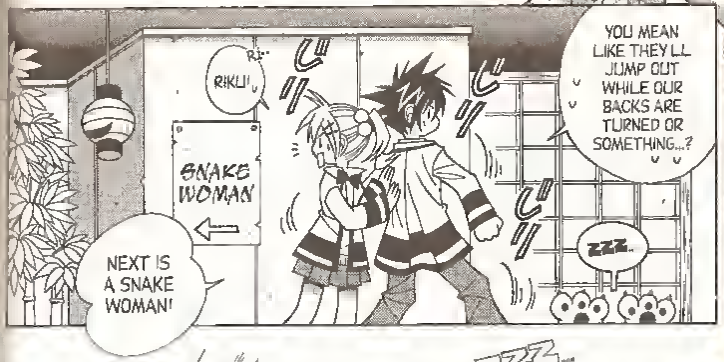
I CAN SEE THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL ALONE WITH RIKU!!
YESSSS!
OKAY
HEEEEEY, RIKU!!
ARE YOU ALWAYS HERE, MIZUNO?
They're not from class...
BUT MY FAMILY WILL BE WITH US.
...BUT I GET THE FEELING HE'S SAYING SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE.
Hey!!
3-3
LET'S GO SEE OTHER THIRD YEARS' PROJECTS
FIRST...
Let's see...
Third Year Projects

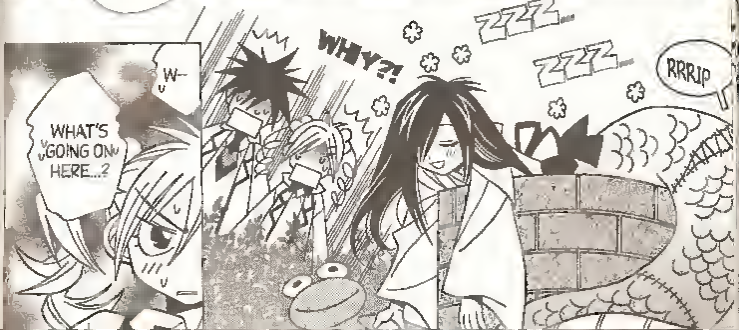
I'M IN A HAUNTED HOUSE ALONE WITH RIKU!!
♡
UWAAAH!
They sure worked hard on these
AH Ha Ha
Well?
SHOULD WE CHECK IT OUT?
HMM...
I GUESS SO
THANKS TO THE GHOSTS
I'll Protect you!
EEEK! I'M SCARED!
OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL BLOSSOM JUST LIKE THAT!! WOO-HOO!
Hissss!
OOH..
CATS FIRST, HUH?
GHOST CAT

...YOU MUST BE IN A BOY-GIRL PAIR!!
TO BE ADMITTED...
Couples' only Haunted Hou
HAVE FUN, YOU TWO!! ♡
Go on!
?
THIS WAY
SELF-GUIDED TOUR!


PUMPKIN MAN
NOD NOD
SNOOORE
WATER DEMON
INVISIBLE WALL
ZZZ
MUMMY MAN
"HELP! MY RELATION SHIP!"
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM
DEMON FACE
THE GHOST'S HERE
SOMEONE SCARE ME, DARN IT!
SUPPOSED TO
EEEEEK!
Mummy man?
NOK
IS HE ASLEEP, TOO?
WHY AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AMAZING!
?


HE'S ASLEEP.
AND HIS CAT EARS CAME OFF
IS THIS A TRAP?
ZZZ
TOY


RIKU!
SNAKE WOMAN
NEXT IS A SNAKE WOMAN!
YOU MEAN LIKE THEY'LL JUMP OUT WHILE OUR BACKS ARE TURNED OR SOMETHING...?
ZZZ...


W-
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
WHY?!
ZZZ...
RRRIP

...YOU HAVE TO PERFORM YOUR VERY BEST!!
As a thank you
IF YOU'RE GOING TO PARTICIPATE...
Riku's feeling-one-of-people reason
YOU CAN PRACTICE ON ME..
LET'S DO IT ONE MORE TIME.
Now, see in.
できはき
NO THA-
Hm?
KYO...
...WHY NOT? ☆
!
LET RIKU TEACH YOU!

Nok☆ Nok
JUST LIKE IN THE REST ROOM
NO, YOU HAVE TO SCARE US!!
Disgruntled
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
Pit
WHAAAAAAT?!
TOO MUCH EFFORT.
THAT'S NO GOOD
IT'S YOU, KAGURA-IN
Good job staying awake though
WHY AREN'T YOU DOING ANYTHING?
That's a surprise

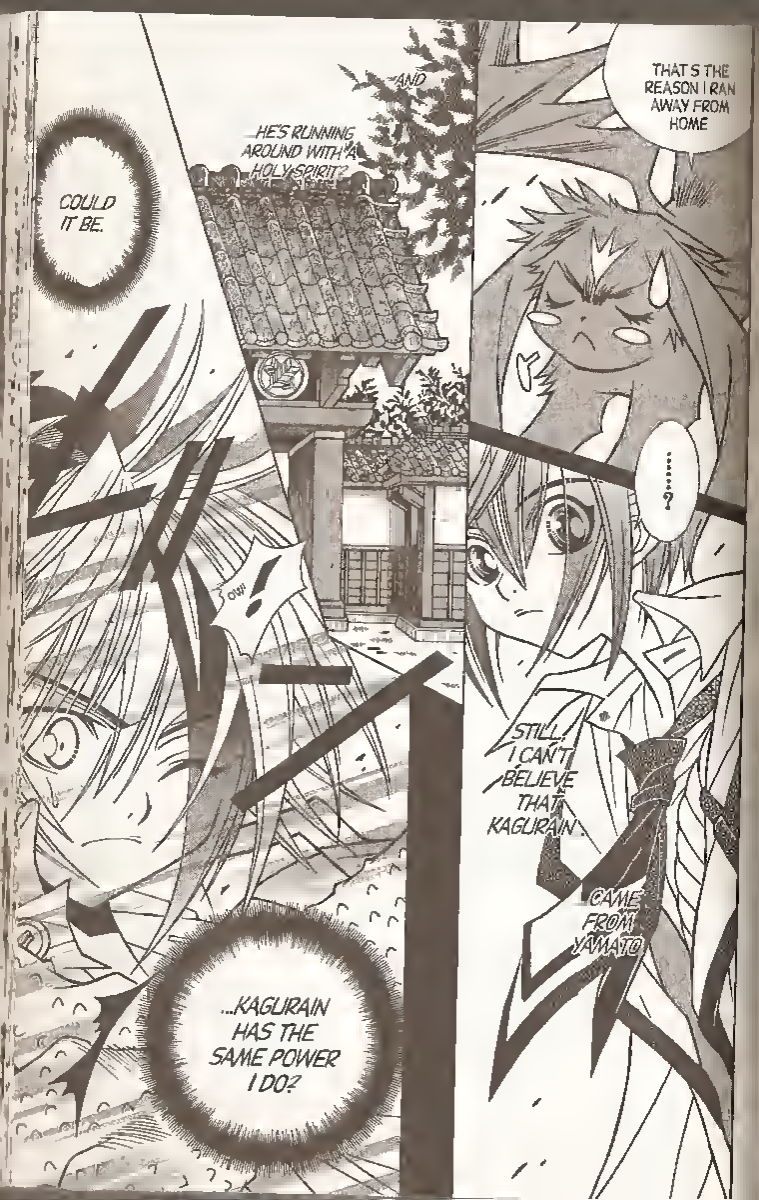
NOT SO FAST!
WE'LL CAPTURE YOU AND TAKE YOU TO YAMATO!
WE HAVE YOU CORNERED, KAGURAIN!!
WE PUT EVERYONE WHO GOT IN OUR WAY TO SLEEP!!
?!
SEND THAT ONE THROUGH!
THE SLIDING DOOR'LL DISAPPEAR SOON!
sliding door?
HURRY UP!
WHAT?
JUST KI-U
what?
THIS ONE?

THAT BIRD JUST TALKED!
NO WAY!
YOU'RE ..
.. A HOLY SPIRIT?!
MY LEFT EYE..
GLOW
IS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU STOLE?!
THE HOLY SPIRIT?
WHAT'S THIS FEELING...?

☆ End of Chapter 86 ☆

...MIZUNO SEE REACHIN' UP TO BE ONE WITH HIS FRIENDS WITH ANIMAL
!
dunno.
THEY WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT KAGURAIN STEALING A LITTLE BIRD HOLY SPIRIT AND
TWEET!!
THAT'S WRONG!
I'M THE ONE...
KAGURAIN AND MIZUNO WERE TAKEN TO YAMATO?
...WHO INVITED HIM TO JAPAN!
THAT'S WHAT I SAW AT THE DORMS THE OTHER NIGHT...
?!
IS THAT YOUR TRUE FORM?
WHY?
Again

Exit
ANYWAY, WAIT UNTIL OUR LAST COUPLE COMES OUT...
TMP TMP TMP
FUTABA!! YOU HERE?!
PLEASE!
MAKE A DOOR TO THE OTHER WORLD!!
Chapter 37
Yasha and Kagurain


COULD IT BE.
AND
HE'S RUNNING AROUND WITH A HOLY SPIRIT?
OW!
THAT'S THE REASON I RAN AWAY FROM HOME
.....?
STILL, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT KAGURAIN
CAME FROM YAMATO
...KAGURAIN HAS THE SAME POWER I DO?

LOOK HERE
SATSUKI
OUR CLASS IS ACTUALLY HAVING A REVIEW MEETING OF THE YAKISOBA STAND'S SUCCESS
I'M GOING, TOO
RIGHT! I'M WORRIED ABOUT MIZUNO
IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS ON YOUR OWN
GO!
I'M YASHA! RIKU WE'RE GOING AFTER THEM!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REVIEW YAKISOBA?!
LIKE, HOW MUCH CABBAGE WAS IN IT?
THANKS!!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO GO IN MY PLACE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE KAGURAIN AND THE OTHERS MIGHT BE HEADED?
OF COURSE!
MY OWNER'S MANSION.
OWNER?

I'M SORRY I RAN AWAY WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING
I'LL TALK TO HER MASTER AND ASK THAT YASHA...
...BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN JAPAN.
THAT'S NONSENSE.
THE HOLY SPIRIT BELONGS TO THE MASTER.
I WON'T BRING YASHA BACK TO YOU.
HEY.
HER OWNER IS HERE.
HE'LL BE OUTRAGED IF HE FINDS OUT HIS HOLY SPIRIT HASN'T RETURNED!
WHISPER
I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT.
THE MASTER HAS RETURNED.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WAY JUST BECAUSE YOU COME FROM A RICH FAMILY?!
LIM
TO THINK YOU WOULD SUMMON A HOLY SPIRIT...
...and run away with it
YOU'VE CAUSED US QUITE A LOT OF TROUBLE, KAGURAIN-KUN
THANKS TO YOU...
...THE OOKUROYA NAME HAS BEEN UTTERLY DISGRACED FOR INTRODUCING YOU TO THE MASTER HERE.
YOU FORGOT TO BRING THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH YOU!
NOOO!
YOU ONLY GET HALF THE REWARD!!
-RRY
out money!

THE HOLY SPIRIT RAN AWAY! REMEMBER?!!
WE EVEN OFFERED A REWARD!
AH
SOMETHING LIKE THAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED, YES
I HAVE SO MANY OTHER TREASURES HERE, I FORGOT...
HMM! HMM! HMM!
YOU WOULD FORGET!
I COULD CRY!
CAN YOU BELIEVE...
WAAAH!
UMM
PARDON OUR INTRUSION
OH, NO!
...SOMEONE LIKE THIS IS MY OWNER?! PATHETIC!!

MY, MY. I SEE I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING.
WE INTRODUCED A TSUNAGI TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR HONORABLE HOME THE OTHER DAY
NOW, NOW!
WHO WERE YOU AGAIN?
WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?
AND?
Pat
OH YES YES THE HOLY SPIRIT STONE

YOU'RE VERY KIND... KAGURAIN.
WHY DID YOU BRING YASHA HERE?!
BUT
KAGU-RAIN
HE KNEW SHE WOULDN'T BE TAKEN BACK?
YOU KNEW THAT IF SHE CAME BACK...
TO HER OLD HOME, YASHA WOULD BE SAD AGAIN?

THE CONTENTS OF THE STONE THAT'S BEEN COLLECTING DUST IN YOUR STOREROOM FOR THREE GENERA-TIONS.
Want me to yank that giant nose off?
YASHA?
Ohh!
YOU'RE FROM HIYOKO-YA!
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?
GOOD GRIEF
WELL, FOR NOW
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER BEING TAKEN BACK. ☆
Will you work for us?
We're happy to see you again!
FUKU-GAWA!!
WAH!

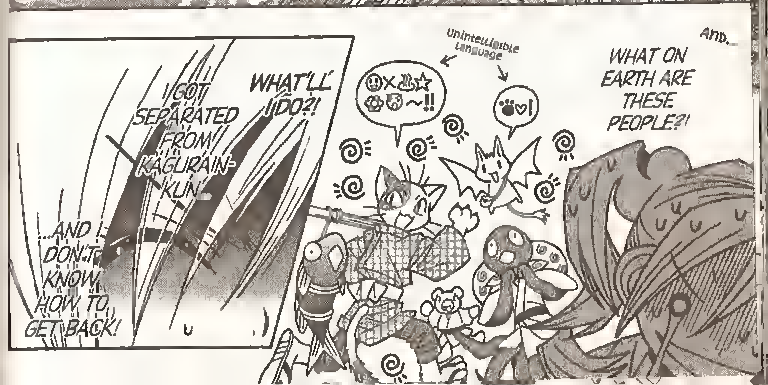
IT WAS A COINCIDENCE THAT I MET YASHA
DUST
YAWN
SO YOU'RE HENPECKED-- I mean...
YOU UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
RIKU HELPED ME. ♡
LET'S THANK HIM TOGETHER!
EH? OH, NO... I CAME TO HELP MIZU-NO--
IT'S FINE!
YASHA
HEH HEH.
THE FEELING'S MUTUAL...
It's like...
I JUST COULDN'T LEAVE HER ALONE.
Yasha.
THUD
You're kinda heavy...

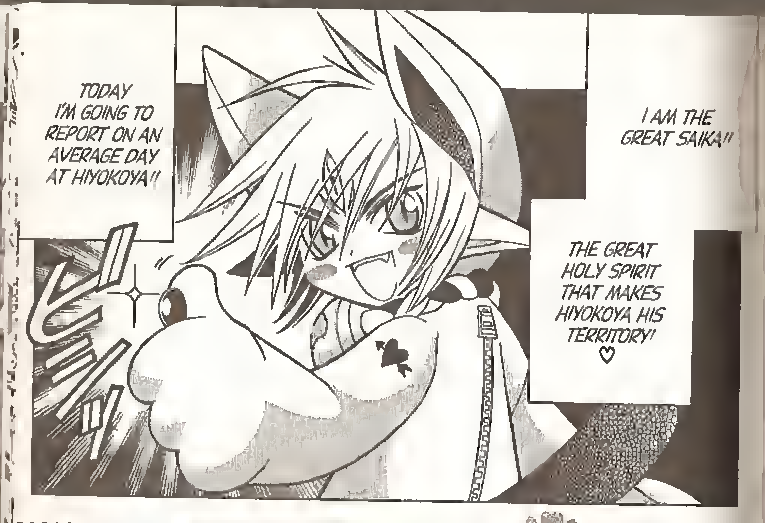
WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?
!
SAP
OF COURSE I CAME!
AREN'T YOU GLAD, KYO...
...TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE RIKU CLOSE BY?
...TAKING JOBS USING MY POWERS IS BECAUSE I WANTED TO BELONG SOMEWHERE.
ACTS A LOT LIKE MY OWN PARENTS
YASHA'S OWNER..
THE REASON I STARTED...

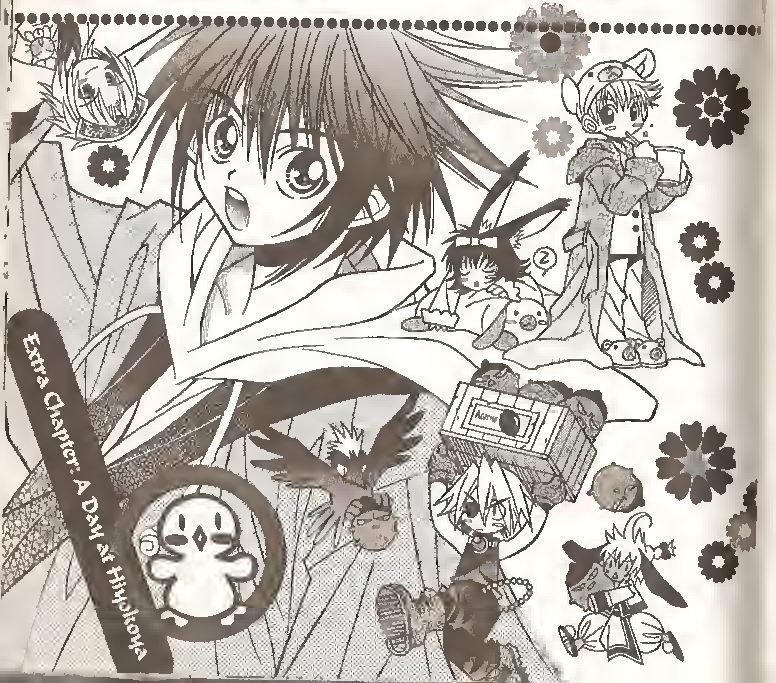
It will be faster if we look for her.
Fukagawa.
HE LINKED...
KAGURAIN?
..WITH YASHA!!
WE WON'T NEED HER
..WE TOSSED HER OUTSIDE
WHA--?
OH
IF YOU MEAN THE GIRL WHO WAS CLINGING TO KAGURAIN...
WHY ISN'T SHE HERE?!
OH, YEAH! MIZUNO!
MIZUNO?
YOU!
IF ANYTHING.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YAMATO!!
IN A CITY WHERE SHE CAN'T EVEN SPEAK THE LANGUAGE
ALL ALONE
...HAPPENS TO MY FRIEND MIZUNO, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!!
YASHA
OKAY
MIZUNO!

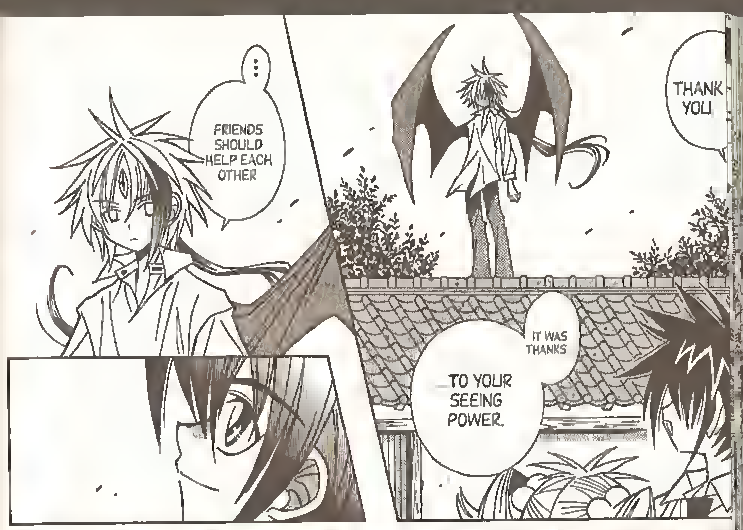
MIZUNOOOOOO!!
AT THIS RATE, I'LL DIE IN SOME GUTTER
RI...
KU?
RIKU!!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE

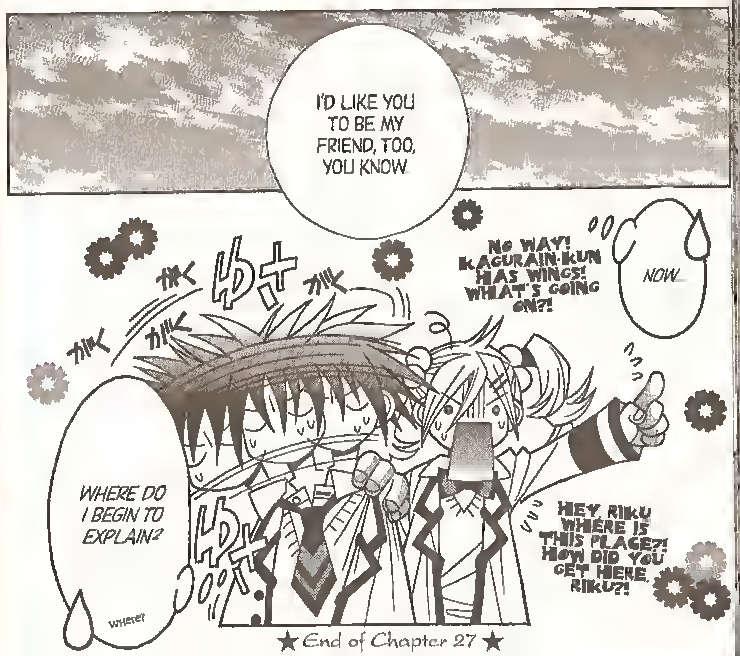
Mizuno
WHERE AM I?
WHO AM I?
WHAT HAPPENED AND HOW...
...WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
ALL I DID WAS GO THROUGH A SLIDING DOOR, BUT


I GOT SEPARATED FROM KAGURA-KUN...
WHAT'LL I DO?!
...AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET BACK!
Unintelligible language
And...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THESE PEOPLE?!


TODAY I'M GOING TO REPORT ON AN AVERAGE DAY AT HIYOKOYA!!
I AM THE GREAT SAIKA!!
THE GREAT HOLY SPIRIT THAT MAKES HIYOKOYA HIS TERRITORY! ♡

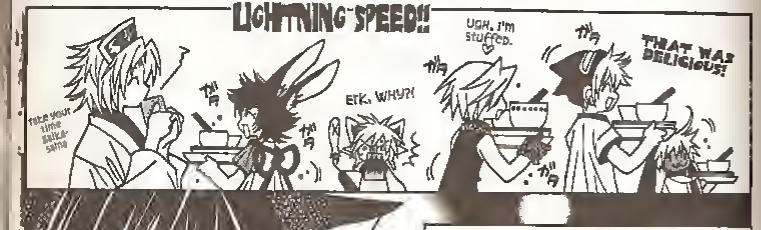


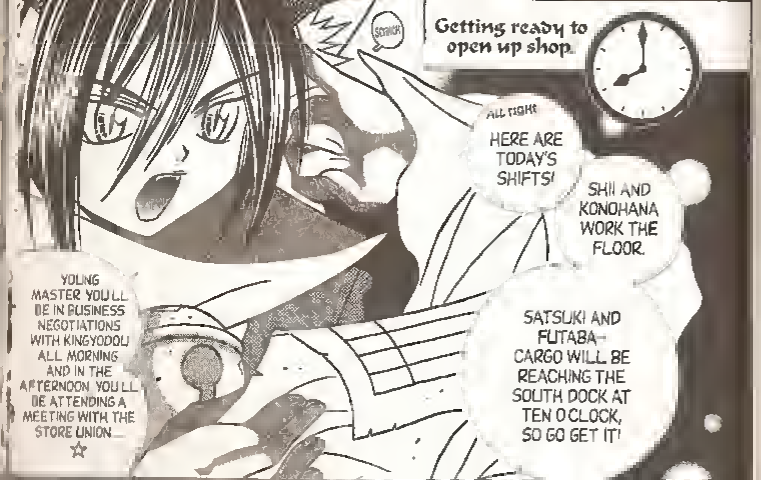


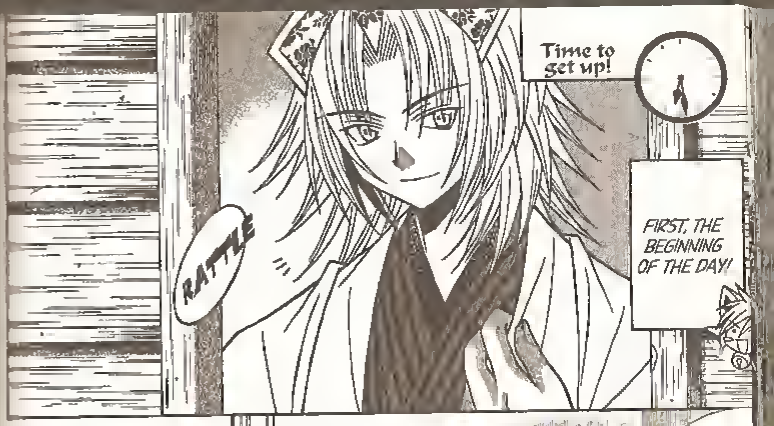

I'D LIKE YOU TO BE MY FRIEND, TOO, YOU KNOW
NO WAY! KAGURAIN-KUN HAS WINGS! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
NOW...
WHERE DO I BEGIN TO EXPLAIN?
whatever
HEY, RIKU WHERE IS THIS PLACE?! HOW DID YOU GET HERE, RIKU?!

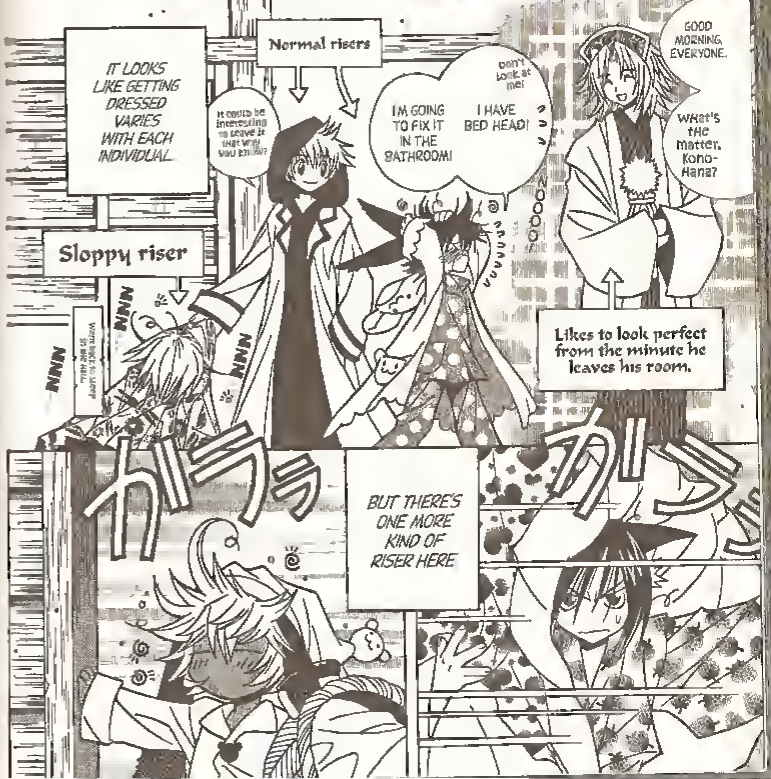
★ End of Chapter 27 ★

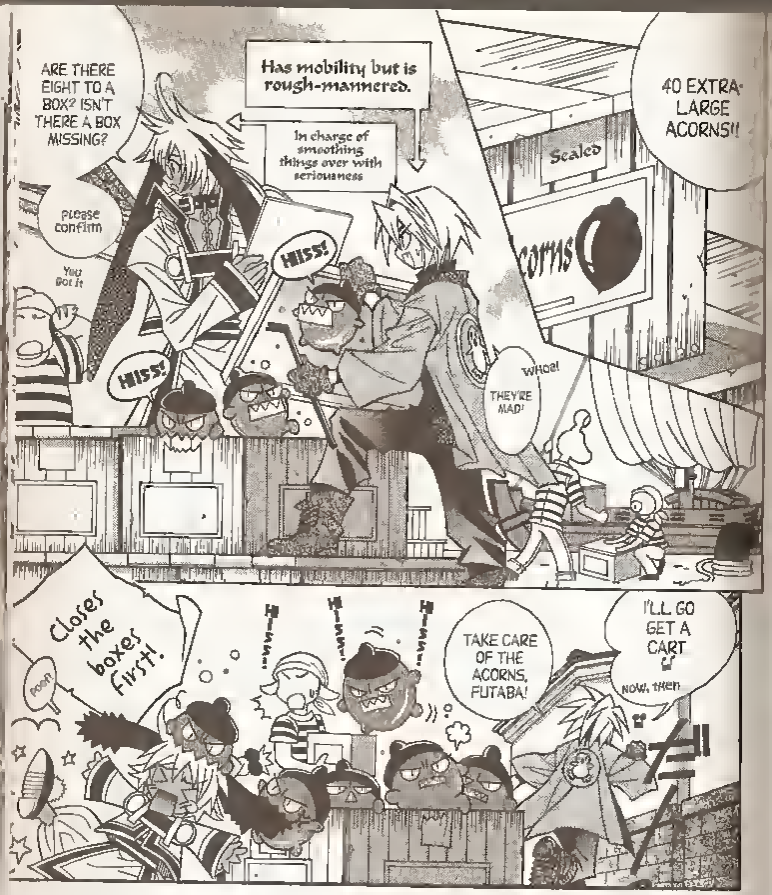
They gather for breakfast.
I eat with them, too!
Like to air out their bedding before getting dressed or doing anything else.
Now it will be all fluffy and soft tonight.
FLUFF
FLUFF
PURR PURR


LIGHTNING-SPEED!!
Take your time, Saitaro-sama
Erk. WHY?!
Ugh. I'm stuffed.
THAT WAS DELICIOUS!


Getting ready to open up shop.
SCORCH
ALL RIGHT
HERE ARE TODAY'S SHIFTS!
SHII AND KONOHANA WORK THE FLOOR.
SATSUKI AND FUTABA— CARGO WILL BE REACHING THE SOUTH DOCK AT TEN O'CLOCK, SO GO GET IT!
YOUNG MASTER YOU'LL BE IN BUSINESS NEGOTIATIONS WITH KINGYODOU ALL MORNING AND IN THE AFTERNOON YOU'LL BE ATTENDING A MEETING WITH THE STORE UNION.

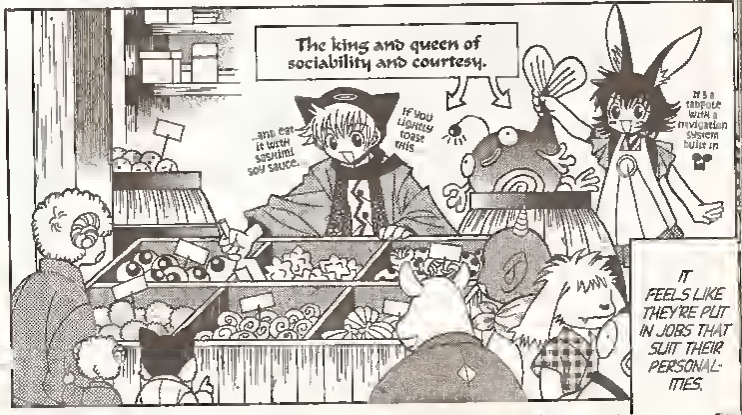

Time to get up!
RATTLE
FIRST, THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY!

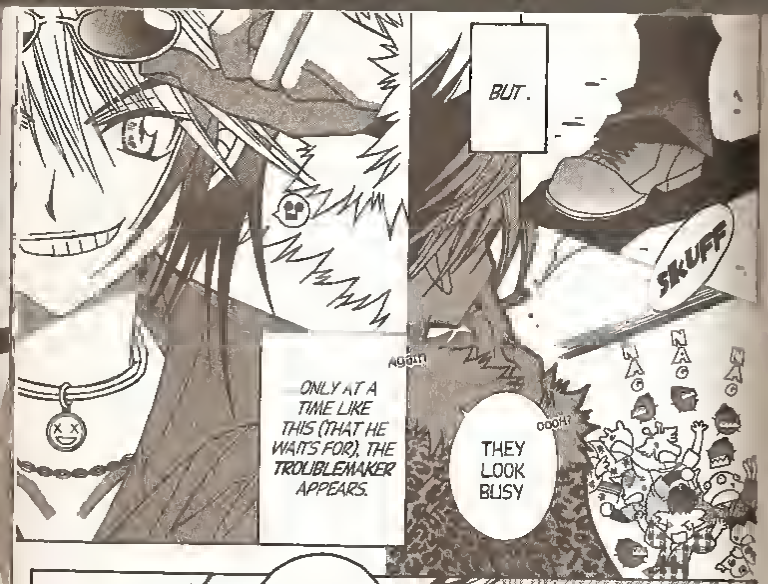

IT LOOKS LIKE GETTING DRESSED VARIES WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL.
Normal risers
It could be interesting to leave it that way, you know?
I'M GOING TO FIX IT IN THE BATHROOM!
I HAVE BED HEAD!
Don't look at me!
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.
What's the matter, Kono-Hana?
Sloppy riser
NNN
NNN
NNN
Likes to look perfect from the minute he leaves his room.
カラッ
カラッ
BUT THERE'S ONE MORE KIND OF RISER HERE


ARE THERE EIGHT TO A BOX? ISN'T THERE A BOX MISSING?
Please confirm
You got it
Has mobility but is rough-mannered.
In charge of smoothing things over with seriousness
HISS!
HISS!
Sealed
40 EXTRA-LARGE ACORNS!!
WHOa! THEY'RE MAD!
Closes the boxes first!
POOF
HISS!
HISS!
HISS!
TAKE CARE OF THE ACORNS, FUTABA!
I'LL GO GET A CART
NOW, THEN

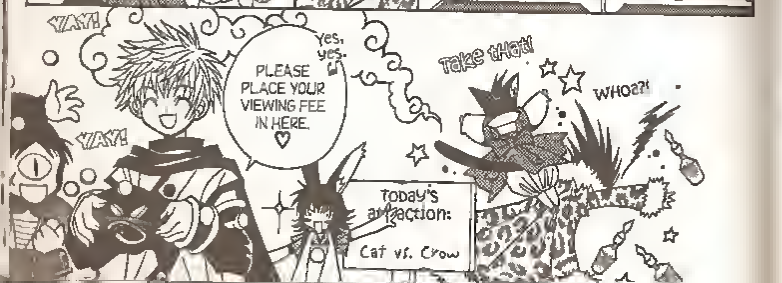
Solo lunch.
Then I get to go first!
MUNCH
MUNCH
Starting with the people whose hands are free--a quick meal

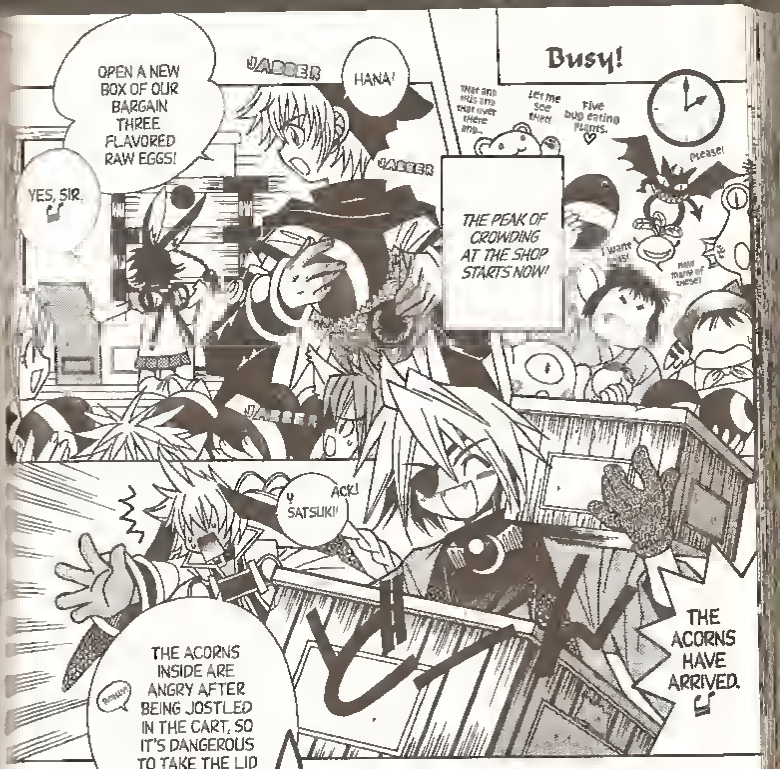
Hiyokoya opens!
We just ate breakfast!!
Let's stop by a gyudon place on the way.
Earn lots of money today, underlings!!
Be careful out there

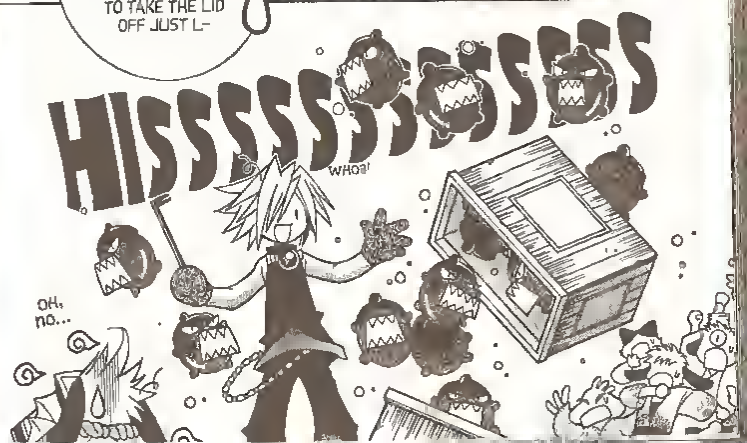

The king and queen of sociability and courtesy.
...and eat it with sashimi soy sauce.
If you lightly toast this
It's a tentacle with a navigation system built in
IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE PUT IN JOBS THAT SUIT THEIR PERSONALITIES.


BUT.
SKUFF
ONLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS (THAT HE WAITS FOR), THE TROUBLEMAKER APPEARS.
THEY LOOK BUSY
OOOH?
NAG
NAG
NAG

WHY, YOU!
YOU INSOLENT-!!!
SHOPLIFTING CHANCE!
Nice!
ERGH!


YAY!
YAY!
PLEASE PLACE YOUR VIEWING FEE IN HERE.
yes, yes.
Take this!
WHOA?!
Today's attraction:
Cat vs. Crow


OPEN A NEW BOX OF OUR BARGAIN THREE FLAVORED RAW EGGS!
YES, SIR.
JABBER
HANA!
JABBER
Busy!
Let me see there
Five cup eating plates.
please!
THE PEAK OF CROWDING AT THE SHOP STARTS NOW!
JABBER
ACK! SATSUKI!!
THE ACORNS HAVE ARRIVED.
THE ACORNS INSIDE ARE ANGRY AFTER BEING JOSTLED IN THE CART, SO IT'S DANGEROUS TO TAKE THE LID OFF JUST L-


HISSSSSSSSSSS
WHOA!
OH, no...

POSTSCRIPT

Thank you very much for looking at *Pick of the Litter* volume 4! This is Yuriko Suda.

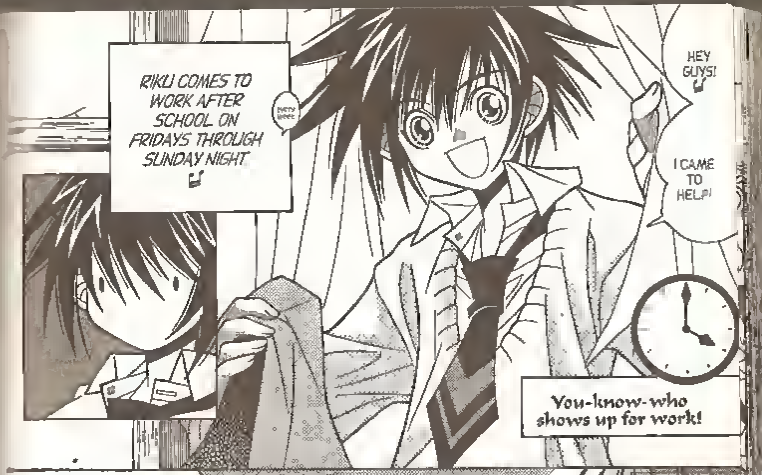
In the last volume, I had difficulty drawing chapter cover pages, so in this volume, I ended up leaving the chapters as-is. (A lot) I know that there might be some unsightly places, so I'm sorry! (;) And that's what this fourth volume is like. Amazingly, while I was drawing this volume, they released a drama CD version (on it is volume 1 of the manga). There were all sorts of new experiences involved, and it was very fun. Thanks to all of you who read *Pick of the Litter* am truly grateful. I hope you will enjoy volume 4, even if just a little... ♡

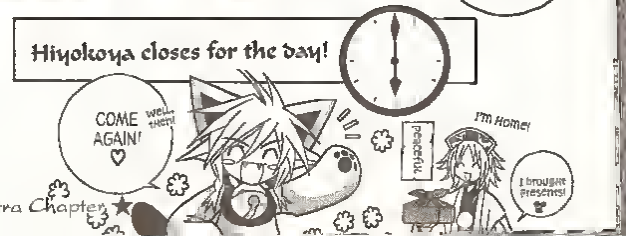
2005, lucky day in oct
YURIKO SUDA
with LOVE ♡LOVE!♡

SPECIAL♡
♡THANKS!!

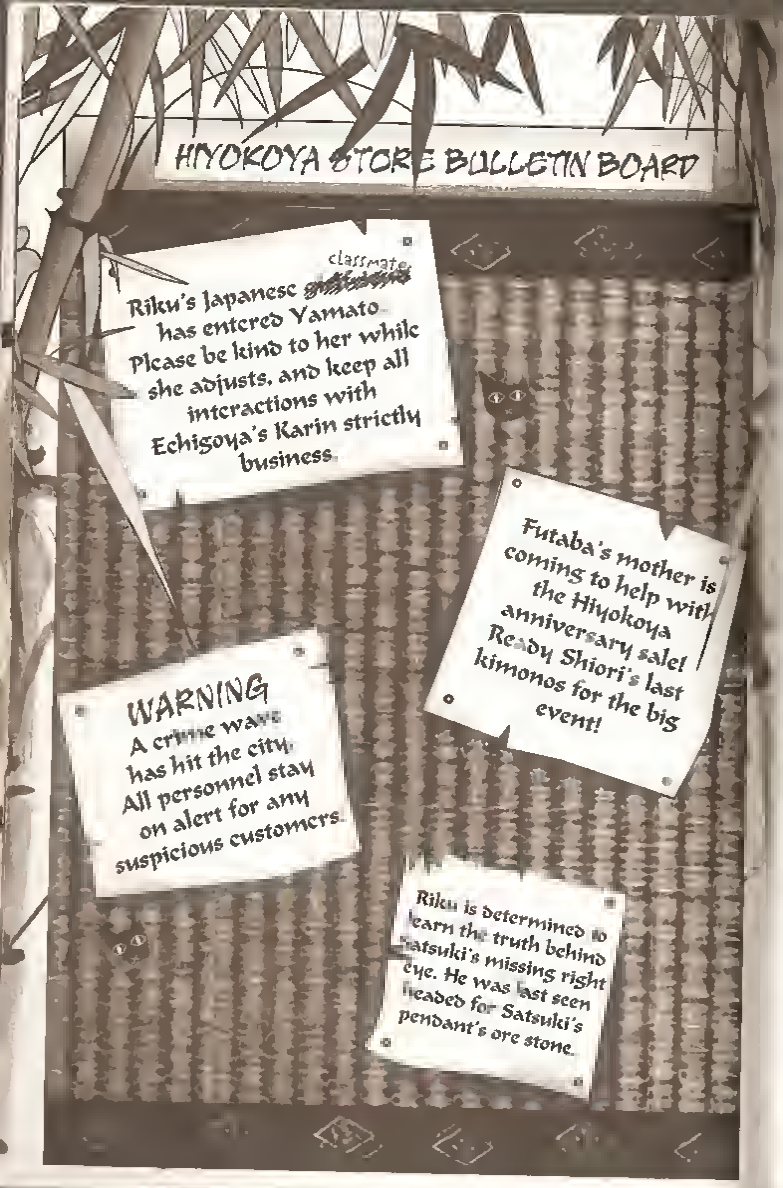
NANO sama♥
DEGUCHI sama♥
MUNAKATA sama♥
KITADA sama♥

Thank you for everything! (I bow before you.)

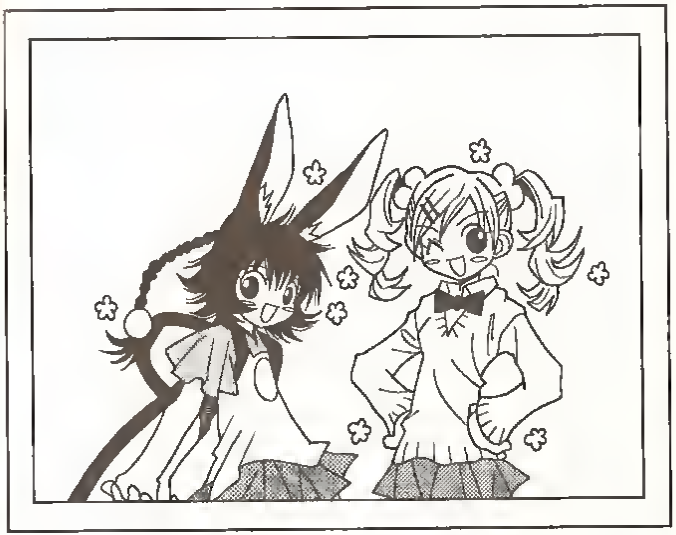




★ End of Extra Chapter ★


HIYOKOYA STORE BULLETIN BOARD
Riku's Japanese classmate has entered Yamato. Please be kind to her while she adjusts, and keep all interactions with Echigoya's Karin strictly business.
Futaba's mother is coming to help with the Hiyokoya anniversary sale! Ready Shiori's last kimonos for the big event!
WARNING
A crime wave has hit the city. All personnel stay on alert for any suspicious customers.
Riku is determined to learn the truth behind Satsuki's missing right eye. He was last seen headed for Satsuki's pendant's ore stone.

OTHER ROLES OF THE CD DRAMA VOICE ACTORS!



Can you recognize these voices from your other favorite anime?

FUKUYAMA-SAN (RIKU): KEITA FROM *GAKUEN HEAVEN*, ALBERT FROM *GANKUTSUOU*, LELOUCH FROM *CODE GEASS*

CHIBA-SAN (ICHIYA): SAI FROM *HIKARU NO GO* SANADA FROM *SAMURAI DEEPER KYO*

MIDORIKAWA-SAN (FUTABA): KAIBA FROM *YU-GI-OH*, RUKAWA FROM *SLAM DUNK*, ANDRIOD 16 FROM *DRAGON BALL Z*, KAORU FROM *NEON GENESIS EVANGELION*, SASUKE FROM *SAMURAI DEEPER KYO*, GAARA FROM *NARUTO*

MORITA-SAN (SATSUKI): ICHIGO FROM *BLEACH*

PARK-SAN (MIO): EDWARD FROM *FULL METAL ALCHEMIST*, HITSUGAYA FROM *BLEACH*, TEMARI FROM *NARUTO*

YAMAGUCHI-SAN (SAIKA): MONTA FROM *EYESHIELD 21*, INUYASHA FROM *INUYASHA*, L FROM *DEATH NOTE*

KUGIMIYA-SAN (KONOHANA): ALPHONSE FROM *FULL METAL ALCHEMIST*

NAKAHARA-ASN (MIZUNO): KARIN FROM *KAMICHAMA KARIN*